

Iran says its forces sweeping into Iraq

Iran yesterday announced its forces crossed the Iraqi border 160 kilometres west of Baghdad in a "massive offensive" that swept aside defences and left 1,200 Iraqi troops dead or wounded on the battlefield, according to the AP.

Iraq, however, reported its army had "crushed" the Iranian attack by launching its own counterattack and continuing to "exert pressure on the defeated enemy troops."

The new flareup in the central sector of the 1,180 km. long battlefield coincided with an Iraqi report that its navy and air force sank seven Iranian naval vessels yesterday in the northern reaches of the Persian Gulf.

An Iraqi communique said the ships, whose type was not specified, were sailing to and from the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini.

There was no independent confirmation of the rival claims of the two combatants who rarely allow foreign correspondents or other neutral observers to visit the extensive battlefield in their three-and-a-half year old war.

(Earlier report Page 4.)

Shamir plea to Chernenko

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Shamir last night urged Russia's new leader, Konstantin Chernenko, to re-examine Soviet policy towards the Middle East and towards Soviet Jewry.

This was the second time since the death of Yuri Andropov last week that Shamir made a public appeal to the Kremlin for better relations with Israel and a better deal for Soviet Jewish would-be emigrants.

Speaking at a Knesset dinner ending the four-day mission here of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Shamir urged the Kremlin to show "greater understanding for Israel's national aspirations."

Observers here noted that Shamir, both as foreign minister and now as premier, has consistently devoted effort and energy to seeking rapprochement with the Soviet Union. Plainly he considers this week's transition of power in the Kremlin an auspicious moment to intensify these efforts.

The Government of the Republic of Liberia is pleased to announce the Reopening of the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia and the consulate, at 119 Rothschild Blvd., Tel Aviv.

Reception Hours: Mon - Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tel. 03-247191, 03-247192, 03-247193, 03-247194, 03-247195, 03-247196, 03-247197, 03-247198, 03-247199, 03-247200, 03-247201, 03-247202, 03-247203, 03-247204, 03-247205, 03-247206, 03-247207, 03-247208, 03-247209, 03-247210, 03-247211, 03-247212, 03-247213, 03-247214, 03-247215, 03-247216, 03-247217, 03-247218, 03-247219, 03-247220, 03-247221, 03-247222, 03-247223, 03-247224, 03-247225, 03-247226, 03-247227, 03-247228, 03-247229, 03-247230, 03-247231, 03-247232, 03-247233, 03-247234, 03-247235, 03-247236, 03-247237, 03-247238, 03-247239, 03-247240, 03-247241, 03-247242, 03-247243, 03-247244, 03-247245, 03-247246, 03-247247, 03-247248, 03-247249, 03-247250, 03-247251, 03-247252, 03-247253, 03-247254, 03-247255, 03-247256, 03-247257, 03-247258, 03-247259, 03-247260, 03-247261, 03-247262, 03-247263, 03-247264, 03-247265, 03-247266, 03-247267, 03-247268, 03-247269, 03-247270, 03-247271, 03-247272, 03-247273, 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The weather at major Swissair destinations

16.2.1984	MIN	MAX	C F
AMSTERDAM	2	28	36
BRUSSELS	6	21	43
FRANKFURT	10	18	35
GENEVA	10	18	35
LONDON	10	18	35
MILAN	10	18	35
PARIS	10	18	35
ROME	10	18	35
STUTTGART	10	18	35
ZURICH	10	18	35

For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair
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Jerusalem: 30 Jaffa St. (02) 2252 33
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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy.	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max	
Jerusalem	49	8-12	13
Golan	49	4-13	14
Nahariya	—	7-18	18
Safed	43	4-9	10
Haifa Port	40	11-16	17
Tiberias	55	7-18	19
Nazareth	51	7-14	15
Sidonia	57	5-17	18
Sharon	59	7-14	15
Tel Aviv	55	10-16	18
B-G Airport	50	8-18	19
Jenichu	50	9-21	22
Gaza	61	10-17	18
Bersheba	57	8-17	18
Eilat	23	8-29	22

Marriage

A reception was held in Old Jaffa on Wednesday to mark the wedding of Michal, daughter of Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Yosef Lapid and Shulamit Lapid, and granddaughter of David Giladi, of Ma'ariv, to Yehoshua, son of Uri and Betty, Dahan, of Haifa. President Chaim Herzog, former president Yitzhak Navon, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive Aryeh Dulin, Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat and their wives were among the guests.

ARRIVALS

Mr. Hyman Kresman, chairman, Ben-Gurion University Foundation in Great Britain.

Policeman fined for bugging his wife

A police officer in the electronics division at national headquarters yesterday was fined 1525,000 for illegally recording telephone conversations of his estranged wife while the couple was undergoing divorce proceedings.

The Jerusalem Magistrate Court convicted Inspector Shalom Distelman of bugging his own telephone illegally, intercepting his wife's phone calls in March and May 1982. Distelman admitted the illegal bugging — with equipment he borrowed from his unit — but denied he had made use of the information other than in discussions with his wife.

In passing sentence, Judge Pura Chaman ruled that he could not determine whether Distelman indeed used the information he obtained to advance his case against his wife. The judge also took into account that Distelman "is not a criminal type" and that his ex-wife apparently had suffered no harm as a result of the illegal wire-tapping.

As a result of Distelman's conviction, the national police headquarters has tightened regulations governing the borrowing of police equipment for officers' private use. (Iim)

Arens in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Iim). — Defence Minister Aren met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's sister Anis by chance yesterday during a tour of Southern Lebanon, the Army Spokesman announced.

Arens spoke with IDF troops and visited the towns of Hasbaya, Rchaya and Jezzine.

HOME AND WORLD NEWS

Israel: Hunt's death 'appalling act of terror'

Jerusalem Post Staff and Agencies
Israel has condemned the killing by gunmen in Rome on Wednesday of Leamon Hunt, director of the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai, as an "appalling act of terror."

"Once again the hand of international terror has tried to strike a blow against peace in our region," a Foreign Ministry statement said yesterday. It said Leamon was "dedicated to the service of peace" and was personally instrumental in setting up the successful peace-keeping operation in Sinai.

Meanwhile, Red Brigades terrorists appearing before a Genoa court yesterday claimed responsibility for the shooting amid chants of "War on American Imperialism."

Ansa said that it had received another responsibility claim at its

office in Beirut from a group calling itself "The Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Brigade." Police sources in Rome said they were "sceptical" about that claim because it was made nearly 24 hours after the murder of Hunt.

Ansa said the Italian claim was shouted from a courtroom cell during a hearing for 35 Red Brigades terrorists. "We claim the attack in Rome," two of them shouted, Ansa said. The claim was followed by chants of "war on American imperialism" and "Italy out of Nato."

It was the second Red Brigades claim of the assassination of Hunt, who died after being shot in the head as he arrived home in his chauffeured armoured car.

A telephone caller Wednesday told a Milan radio station that "the fighting Communist Party" was responsible. Italian investigators identified the group with a hardline faction of the Red Brigades.

Porush, Lorincz said attacked over allocations to yeshivot

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An Agudat Yisrael magazine, *Darkenu* (Our Way), which reportedly attacks MKs Menahem Porush and Shlomo Lorincz over yeshivot allocations, is due to appear this morning, a reliable source told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Porush, however, denies that such a publication exists.

According to the source, the magazine castigates the special allocations to yeshivot, which it terms "bribery," for keeping significant Orthodox legislation from being passed. It adds that these allocations give all yeshivot a bad name and hinder them from raising money.

The periodical also accused the two MKs of ignoring the rulings of the Agudat Yisrael Council of Sages with regard to the agreement to rotate Knesset members, the source said. It also opposes the latest attempts by the two to introduce by name in the State Budget the special allocations to Agudat Yisrael institutions. Until now, they were listed merely as institutions

designated by Porush and Lorincz.

According to Porush, there are seven such institutions, although each has numerous projects. But other Orthodox circles expressed doubt that such an attempt would go through the Knesset.

Opponents also expressed doubts that Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad would commit himself in this way and thus lose his "insurance policy" for automatic votes with the coalition. If the items were included in the budget, this would automatically end a ruling of the High Court of Justice, in answer to an appeal by the Habad movement, calling upon the Treasury to show cause why these special allocations should not be distributed according to objective criteria.

The Post learned yesterday that the Treasury is far from happy about Porush's maneuver, which could further delay the preparation of the budget which by law should have been tabled by February 1. Cohen-Orgad has called on Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir to rule upon the legality of including the items by name in the budget.

'Immigrant camp' set up in Jerusalem

By MICHAEL EILAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A left-wing neighbourhood movement yesterday put up a *ma'abara* (immigrants' camp) in central Jerusalem to protest against the government's economic policies.

"It took us 30 years to get out of the *ma'abara*," said Dede Ben-Shitrit at the demonstration, "and now the government wants to put us back there again."

The demonstration was staged by the *Meoravim* (Involvement) neighbourhood movement which

has contacts with Peace Now. Among the people who spoke at the demonstration were Ben-Shitrit and neighbourhood leader Ya'acov Yona. Ben-Shitrit, referring to the resurgence of the stock exchange, said it "proves that suckers never die, they are just replaced."

Near the Involvement demonstration members of "Citizens Who Care," and "Shakak," a Jerusalem neighbourhood movement, put up a stall at which they collected signatures against the war in Lebanon and West Bank settlement.



Neighbourhood residents demonstrate against rising prices in Jerusalem yesterday. (Rahamim Israeli)

MEASHE'ARIM

(Continued from Page One)

Jerusalem District Archeologist Dan Bahat, who compiled the report for the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, said this week that the fact that modern Jerusalem is built in a graveyard "means that we have no alternative but to compromise with reality and evacuate the bones with due ceremony" after archeologists have excavated the graves. In antiquity, he said, graves were shifted outside the city's perimeter when the city was expanded.

However, the leader of the *haredi*

fight against grave excavations, Rabbi David Shmida of the Atra Kadisha organization, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that Kloner's findings were not a surprise to him and required no change in the *haredi* position.

"The city was surrounded by burial caves in antiquity but interspersed among fields and villages, not in a continuous strip," he said.

Shmida denied that *haredi* Jews would have to move out of neighbourhoods suspected of being built on graveyards in view of the religious ban of living in a graveyard. Granting the likelihood that graves lay beneath Jerusalem's neighbourhoods, he said, there was definitely no halachic obligation to search for an unknown grave.

Where graves are known, he said, houses and roads can be built above them as long as "double ceiling" is built above the graves to keep their impurity from contaminating the surrounding area. Thus, he said, *halacha* (religious law) does not impede the building up of Jerusalem.

It will, however, continue to impede excavations of graves, he said. *Haredim* do not accept the violation of ancient resting places and the transfer of bones from their original graves for the convenience of modern scientists.



A delegation of residents from Kiryat Shmona yesterday presents Prime Minister Shamir with the remains of a Katyusha rocket and a letter of support for his policies, at his Jerusalem office. (Rahamim Israeli)

Settlers ask for law panel to monitor W. Bank justice

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The coordinating council of the Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip has asked Defence Minister Arens "to establish a permanent, Justice Ministry-appointed committee" to keep track of law enforcement procedures in the territories.

Arens heads a three-member, ministerial committee, including Justice Minister Nissim and Interior Minister Burg, recently appointed by the cabinet following publication of the Karp Report to review law enforcement in the territories.

Arens is expected to bring up the suggestion at the committee's next meeting, a government source said yesterday.

In a related development, Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman yesterday strongly denied a report that he had proposed creating a separate municipality for Jewish settlers in Hebron.

The report was broadcast Wednesday night on Israel Television's

Mabat news programme. Ne'eman

said yesterday there do not have to be separate municipal bodies for the town's Jewish and Arab residents. Residents of the Jewish suburb of Kiryat Arba have also opposed such a division.

Also on Wednesday, 82-year-old Mohammed Nofel complained to the police that two men, including one dressed as a policeman, tortured him to get his signature on a document selling some of his land near Kalkilya.

Nofel also complained that he was given the run-around by police officers at various West Bank police stations before his complaint was taken. A police spokesman yesterday said that an internal inquiry is under way and that detectives are investigating the alleged torture, in which several of Nofel's fingers reportedly were broken.

In another development, vandals tried to chop down two electricity poles supplying current to Kiryat Arba. Police said that an inquiry is under way and that the damage to the poles was not extensive.

Bank of Israel suggests banks hike commissions 5%

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

A Bank of Israel report recommends that commercial banks be permitted to increase their commissions by 5 per cent in real terms each quarter during the coming year.

At the same time, the Bank of Israel should gather information on the banks' operating costs, so that by the end of the year it can control further increases in these commissions, the report said.

These are the main conclusions of a subcommittee of the Bank of Israel advisory board on banking affairs, which examined the prices of banks' financial services.

The subcommittee, headed by Meir Heth, chairman of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, was formed last December after the plans for

large hikes in banks' commissions were announced.

The subcommittee concluded that banks' commissions on "essential" and "personal" services, such as management of cheque accounts, foreign exchange transactions and securities trading may be better controlled.

The subcommittee also justified an increase in commissions, since they cover only 40 per cent of the operating costs of the banks. The increase in commissions during 1984 should raise this rate to 50 per cent and by the end of 1986 to 66 per cent.

The subcommittee recommended that in setting commissions the commercial banks and the Bank of Israel should take into account the benefits the banks receive from using their clients' money before clearing the cheques for payment.

Upset victory in Herut aliya ballot

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Haim Aharon, Israel's ambassador to Colombia, last night won an upset victory over MK Michael Kleiner for the nomination of Herut-Hatzohar for the post of Jewish Agency aliya department chairman.

Aharon received 46 votes of the Zionist party's executive while Kleiner received 43 and former MK Yitzhak Yitzhaki got one vote. Aharon, 39, was born in Chile and is a former head of Herut's aliya department. His candidacy must be approved next week by the agency board of governors, most of whom

do not know Aharon well. It is learned that the aliya department director-general Yehuda Dominitz may not remain in the department if Aharon is named chairman.

The Diaspora members of the board, who esteem Dominitz, are likely to take Dominitz's possible resignation into consideration when considering Aharon's candidacy.

Aharon is thought to be close to Prime Minister Shamir, while Kleiner is an ally of Deputy Prime Minister David Levy.

The vote took place in Beit

'Only 2,600' Israelis emigrated in 1983

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Deputy Minister Dov Shilansky, the official in charge of fighting emigration, yesterday "celebrated" the decline in emigration last year to "only 2,600" Israelis, compared to 8,600 the previous year, 16,800 in 1982 and 30,700 in 1980.

Shilansky received the figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics. His office declared he was overjoyed by the news.

The statistics are estimates because an emigrant is officially designated by the Bureau as an Israeli who does not return to the country for four years or more. The

2,600 are Israelis who left in 1983 and had not returned by year's end. Shilansky also noted that the number of emigrants returning to Israel last year was 15,300, compared to 11,350 in 1982.

But experts in emigration and immigration point out that many emigrants formulated plans to return during the economic crisis and rise in unemployment in the U.S., which took place at the same time as the standard of living jumped in Israel. Since the economic situation in the U.S. is improving, and Israel's economy is in trouble, the trend welcomed by Shilansky could reverse itself, they warn.

Haifa prosecutor suspected of forgery

HAIFA (Iim). — Police here are

checking the possibility that the municipal prosecutor, already under arrest on charges of taking bribes and concealing evidence, may have forged documents to impede proceedings initiated by the attorney-general's office.

This was stated by a police representative in magistrate's court yesterday during a remand hearing for Zusia Eitan. The court acceded to the prosecution request to extend Eitan's detention another 10 days, so that police can pursue their investigation.

After Eitan's attorney said that

his client has been held in a cell with criminal suspects who harass him, the court ordered that he be moved to a cell where he would not be bothered.

650 motorists violate law throughout 'Traffic Day'

The police yesterday recorded some 650 traffic violations during a special "Traffic Day" of stepped-up enforcement in Jerusalem and nearby Beit Shmesh.

U.S. says no preconditions on new UN force in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (AP). — U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick told the Security Council yesterday that the U.S. "imposes no preconditions" to the creation of a new UN force in Lebanon.

"We are ready to consult with our colleagues on the council," she said, "on the composition and deployment of this force."

She spoke on the second day of the 15-nation council's debate on a French proposal that an international force take over in Beirut from the Multi-National Force.

At 12:40 p.m., the council president, Pakistani Ambassador Sardar Shah Nawaz, adjourned the meeting without fixing a date for the next

meeting. Soviet Ambassador Richard Ovinnikov later summarized the 43-minute debate for reporters by saying: "Nothing so far to cheer on."

However, Kirkpatrick added, the Soviets "have asserted that they were unwilling to enter consultations for an enhanced UN presence until a whole string of conditions had been met."

She said the conditions included removal of the U.S. Sixth Fleet out of range of the Lebanese coast and a promise by members of the Multi-National Force never to return. The force includes Britain, France, Italy and the U.S.

Druse show TV crews proof of Phalangist massacres

BEIRUT (AP). — Druse militiamen pointed out scores of decomposing bodies in the village of Kfar Matta yesterday and said they were victims of a massacre by Christians who captured the village five months ago.

Among reporters shown the bodies were a CBS television crew whose 20-minute film showed skeletons and decomposed bodies inside houses and in fields in the tiny Druse village in the Shouf Mountains 25 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

One skeleton held another in its arms, and the pair appeared to be a mother and child. A Druse militiaman escorting TV crews said with a choking voice that the two bodies he pointed to were those of his mother, 50, and his aunt, 35.

Druse fighters recaptured Kfar Matta from the Lebanese army in an onslaught they mounted on Tuesday. They said Christian militiamen of the Phalange Party massacred more than 100 Druse

villages when they moved into Kfar Matta with government troops last September 5 following Israel's withdrawal from the Shouf to south of the Awali River in Southern Lebanon.

The film showed dozens of skeletons and badly decomposed bodies in the bush and along approaches to the village. One skeleton of a woman shot in the face lay face up with her arms outstretched.

Found in a room in the village was a message on a blood-stained piece of paper from Clark Todd, London bureau chief of Canadian television CTV, to his family.

Todd, 38, bled to death from a shrapnel wound in the chest suffered as he covered the Druse-Christian civil war that broke out with the Israeli army pullout from the mountains.

His body was taken from the village a week after his death by the International Red Cross.

Sunni commander's move led to 4th Brigade collapse

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

The Lebanese Army's 4th brigade, which collapsed earlier this week in front of the Druse and Shi'ite advance, gave up after just scant resistance, *The Jerusalem Post* learned yesterday.

Its collapse started with some successful Druse negotiations with the commanders of one of the battalions, a Sunni Moslem.

Reports reaching here said that last week the Druse established contact with the unidentified commander. In the course of these contacts they brought the man's family to talk to him.

The commander then arranged for his battalion's defection, which led to the collapse of the entire

brigade, following minor fighting.

The soldiers got on their tanks and armoured personnel carriers and drove to the coast. After passing the Phalangist lines, they left their heavy armaments along the road and continued to the Israeli lines.

Israeli troops who entered that area yesterday counted 25 tanks and 50- to 60 armoured personnel carriers that the Phalangists collected and concentrated near the Awali River.

As for Palestinian terrorist support, Fatah rebel units have fought with the Druse and have been spotted in the Shimkhan area, but rumours of hundreds of them were exaggerated, reports indicate.

LEBANESE ARMY

(Continued from Page One)

with less than half his army in action.

The militiamen took the Christian coastal town of Damour and the neighbouring hilltop Mishref barracks of the Christian Lebanese Forces militia about 2 a.m. yesterday, *communiques from both sides* said.

Both army and western sources said the sudden folding of the 4th brigade, which had held key positions in the mountains southeast of Beirut, the Khalde highway intersection south of the international airport and a 16-km. stretch of coast, was caused by a false order on the command radio, jamming and Israeli interference.

The various sources said it was confirmed that Israeli gunboats offshore had turned back reinforcements and supplies the army was trying to send into the battle.

They also said the 4th brigade, which had lost some positions early in the fight, had recaptured them and was moving forward when a false order to retreat was sent on the command radio and immediately followed by jamming of all frequencies.

The sources said an Israeli electronic intelligence ship was reported hovering offshore at the time, but refused to directly blame the Israeli for the interference. "The Soviets are capable of such things too," one western source said.

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Reb. HYMAN BESSIN

and on the third anniversary of the passing of our beloved mother

MARION BESSIN

of Ottawa — Netanya

we will hold a memorial service on Thursday, February

23, 1984 (Adar Alef 20, 5744).

At 3.45 p.m., we will meet at the grave at the Sanhedria Cemetery, Jerusalem.

At 4.30 p.m., there will be a ceremony for the awarding of scholarships in memory of Hyman and Marion Bessin.

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Coordinator of Israel policy in Lebanon

'Hasty pullout would leave chaos'

By DAVID BERNSTEIN

Post-Middle East Affairs Reporter

The coordinator of Israeli policy in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, yesterday came out strongly against a hasty pullout from Lebanon, which, he argued, would mean chaos and renewed insecurity for Galilee.

Lubrani's intention is to get out of Lebanon as quickly as possible.

Lubrani told a symposium on Lebanon organized by Tel Aviv University's Jaffa Centre for Strategic Studies.

"But whoever believes that it will be possible to pack our bags, load them onto troop carriers and beat a

retreat to Merula simply does not understand the realities of Lebanon," he said.

"What is required now is patience, so that one day, we will be able to look ourselves in the face and say that we did all we could to prevent a catastrophe."

Lubrani stressed that there is "no absolute solution" in Lebanon, and that Israel "will be grateful if it achieves the minimum possible."

This minimum, Lubrani said, would be to arrive at some arrangement with the local population in Southern Lebanon that would pre-

vent chaos and satisfy security in the Galilee.

He conceded that many now view this aim with considerable scepticism — "and I understand them."

But he went on to note that "in Lebanon, with its mixture of realism, surrealism and even fatalism, there is a strong will to survive."

"There are many among those we are now speaking to who acknowledge that once Israel leaves, there will be total chaos — and this is something that is in their interest to prevent."

Arafat leads in Glasgow U. rector race

By HYAM CORNEY

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — PLO leader Yasser Arafat has been nominated for the post of rector of Glasgow University. The election, in which all the students but not the academic staff are entitled to take part, will be held on March 3.

The post is largely symbolic and carries little power or influence. But it enjoys great prestige.

According to university sources, Arafat has a good chance of winning, particularly as none of his rivals has widespread support. But even if he is defeated, the mere fact that he has been nominated is causing problems for Glasgow's Jewish stu-

dents, with posters of Arafat and pro-PLO slogans all over the campus.

Matthew Kalman, chairman of the National Union of Jewish Students, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that "the atmosphere which is being generated is making it difficult for Jewish students to walk with their heads up. Arafat is being presented as a moderate, with no reference to his terrorist links. It is a whitewash job."

To counter that campaign, the UJS has provided the Glasgow University Jewish society, which has about 50 members, with material showing Arafat's links with people such as Idi Amin and the

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Behind the Arafat campaign are Abdul Ibrahim, who describes himself as the local representative of the PLO, and Paul Madril, president of the university student council and regarded as an extremist within the left-wing National Organization of Labour Students. Ibrahim has been at the university for at least seven years.

In recent years, Scotland has become the focal-point in Britain for pro-PLO activity. Dundee twinned with Nablus, Glasgow University twinned with Birzeit University and the British Anti-Zionist Organization has its headquarters in the city.

Acre police to be tried on dereliction of duty charge

Two officers at the Acre police station are to be put on disciplinary trial for dereliction of duty in a case involving the alleged passing of bad cheques by a former Acre policeman.

The two are the former head of the station and his chief detective.

This was disclosed yesterday by Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir in the High Court of Justice, which had been petitioned in the case.

A Laura Yakir of Haifa, told the court that in June 1981 she loaned Simon Jano, a former Acre police officer, \$540,000. She said that he gave her postdated cheques to repay the loan. But when she presented the cheques to his bank, she was informed that he had given orders not to honour them.

When she complained to Jano, he said, he beat her. She told the court that she was then taken to a police station, where she was advised to drop

charges. She refused, and after police did not charge Jano, went to the High Court.

Replying to the High Court's order that the state's attorney in December 1983 said that the failure of the Acre police to charge Jano was due simply to the heavy workload at the station. In the meantime, the state's attorney said, Jano had in fact been charged in Acre magistrate's court.

However, the High Court ruled that the charges in the lower court were probably filed only as a result of Yakir's petition. The High Court ordered the Interior Ministry to pay Yakir expenses of \$530,000.

The court also instructed Zamir to look into the case. He replied this week that a police investigation had determined that the avoidable delay in charging Jano was not due to his police background. Nevertheless, the officers are to be put on trial.



Tat-Aluf (Brig. Gen.) Aharon Vardi has been appointed commanding officer of regional and civil defence. He succeeds Tat-Aluf Arya Dayan, who is terminating active duty in the IDF. Vardi, a native Israeli born in 1943, joined the IDF in 1962 as a paratrooper.

Art school threatened with closure

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Ramat Gan College of Art and Sculpture may have to close because the Ramat Gan municipality refuses to honour promises made by the municipal officials, students and teachers charged at a press conference here yesterday.

The college has 380 students and offers a full-time four year training programme as well as after-school classes for children and adult-education courses in the evenings.

On Tuesday, the college administration received notice to evacuate the premises the cellar of Beit Bechor (provided by the municipality).

"We invested most of the students' tuition money in renovating

the cellar and making it livable as a school," Elchanan Halperin, a teacher, said at the press conference. "We would not have done that if we thought we would have to vacate the premises in a few months."

The municipality spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* that the cellar at Beit Bechor was rented to the college on a one-year basis in the hope that the college's administration would improve. When the college again asked the municipality for millions of shekels in aid this year, the city decided not to continue the relationship.

The spokesman added that efforts will be made to establish an art college on a more sound economic footing.

Arab councils carry out two-hour warning strike

SHFARAM (Itim). — The 43 Arab local councils in the Galilee and the Triangle carried out a two-hour warning strike yesterday against the Interior Ministry, claiming that they do not receive sufficient funding to supply necessary services compared with Jewish councils.

The councils said they would carry out a general strike if their financial demands are not met. The strike did not affect sanitation services and schools.

The representative of the Interior Ministry's northern district, Israel Koenig, responded to the strike by saying it was unjustified. He said the councils in the Arab sector received a budget increase 120 per cent greater than those in the Jewish sector.

ing on in northern Tel Aviv where the bottles are being collected.

Meanwhile, Carmel Mizrahi, the country's leading wine cooperative, announced a switch to non-returnable bottles and that it has stopped collecting deposits on its bottles in stock. It will return the deposits already paid until the end of April.

Other wineries say they do not plan to follow Carmel Mizrahi's lead if they can withstand Phoenicia's pressure, which involves, among other things, better credit terms.

Bottle firm promotes non-returnables

By YITZHAK OKED

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Manufacturers of wine and food products (jams, catsups, etc.) claim they are being pressured by Phoenicia, the only bottle manufacturer in the country, to switch to non-returnable bottles.

But Ya'acov Yaron, managing director of Phoenicia, said the company is not pressuring anyone and that the switch to non-returnable bottles came after an intensive two-year study and "even the government saw our plans."

One of Phoenicia's main arguments for the change-over is full employment for 370 workers at the company's plant in Yeroham.

Yaron told *The Jerusalem Post* that they had invested a large sum for machinery for the recycling of non-returnable bottles. He said this would save the economy large sums since they could also be a fuel savings, he said.

Yaron conceded that the problem is educating the public to recycle non-returnable bottles and ways to collect them. A pilot project is go-



Defence Minister Moshe Arens, who was raised in the U.S., is awarded an honorary life membership in the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel at the organization's conference Wednesday night at Kfar Hamaccabiah. Pictured from left: Jonathan Davis, national vice-president of AACI; Arens; Elain Kopp, national president; Irwin Field, chairman of UIA; Don Gould, national secretary; U.S. and Canadian ambassadors Samuel Lewis and Vernon Turner.

Kollek asks American Jewry intervention:

Put E. Jlem consulate under U.S. Embassy

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek asked American Jewish leaders yesterday to lobby the U.S. administration to discontinue the independent status of the American consulate in East Jerusalem and to put it under the direct control of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Addressing members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at city hall, Kollek said East Jerusalem consular officials have close ties to West Bank Arabs and report directly to Washington. "We would be much happier if the consulate belonged to the regular diplomatic network responsible to the embassy in Tel Aviv," the mayor said.

American Jews should continue to press for moving the embassy to Jerusalem, Kollek added, but this is currently not a realistic goal. It would be a shame to repeat the Canadian incident, he noted, when Joe Clark, a candidate for the premiership, promised to move his country's embassy to Jerusalem.

But when Clark took office, he backtracked due to Arab pressure on the Canadian government, the mayor said.

Kollek also urged the Americans to speak to congressmen about granting a symbolic \$1-a-year grant to Jerusalem in appreciation of its efforts to preserve its history and heritage through excavation and restoration. This, said Kollek, would help counter attacks on the city by UNESCO and other international organizations controlled by the Third World. The Jewish leaders were also asked to declare their opposition to violence committed in the city, including that committed by ultra-Orthodox extremists against religious as well as secular neighbours.

The mayor denounced the government's programmes to populate towns outside the Jerusalem city limits — mostly with former Jerusalemites looking for cheaper housing. This may be acceptable in 10 to 15 years, when Jerusalem's newer neighbourhoods are filled, but at present an additional 125,000 or so Jews can be accommodated in the new areas within municipal boundaries where 75,000 Jews have already been settled, he said.

Conference participants were told earlier by Finance Minister

Yigal Cohen-Orag that Israel's defence budget must be cut even if it might encourage its enemies to try their luck again on the battlefield. He added that the country must cut \$1 billion this year from its balance of payments deficits by cutting the government budget, instituting tight monetary policy, and the citizenry paying more for health and education. The universities too, he said, are not efficient enough. But Cohen-Orag was optimistic that the economy would straighten out due to its sound industrial base.

Eli Hurwitz, chairman of the Manufacturers' Association, said that the two years that the economy was ruled by Former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor were the "most terrible in the history of Israel." His policies, which tried artificially to reduce inflation while overvaluing the shekel, "killed" industry and agriculture. While he approved of the new finance minister's steps, there must still be more cuts in public expenditure, Hurwitz said.

Members of the Presidents' Conference, on their last day in Israel, said they would try help increase the sales of Israeli products in the U.S.

West German jailed for sabotage try

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A West German was sentenced yesterday to five years in prison for attempting to blow up the fuel pumps at the Tel Aviv police garage last December.

Uwe Muller, 23, confessed to the crime, but stated he did not intend to harm anyone. Tel Aviv District Court Judges Shmuel Kwar, Ya'acov Kedmi and Edna Shatzky ruled that "it was a miracle the fuel pumps were not ignited and people

hurt. The punishment must deter other youths in Europe from trying to harm the security of the state."

Muller allegedly was recruited for a strike in Israel by two PLO agents he met in Holland last October. He arrived here as a tourist last November. The police said he was captured while trying to set fire to the pumps. He ran from the officers and was caught hiding in the stairwell of a nearby building.

Strike closes quarry

SHFARAM. — A strike called by the labour council in this Arab town in Western Galilee closed the local quarry yesterday after its management decided to dismiss seven Arab workers and to replace them by 10 Jewish workers. The council said yesterday it could not ignore such a move that would affect relations between Jews and Arabs in the area. The Histadrut was asked to intervene. The quarry employs 70 workers, the majority of whom are Arabs.

Last day to convert shares to savings

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Today is the last day to convert "arrangement" bank shares into savings schemes. The original date, January 20, was extended to allow more people to join.

Three savings schemes are offered. Men who were 65 and women who were 60 on October 6, 1983, can join a two-year savings scheme, after which they will receive the original dollar equivalent value of the shares of October 6, plus 6 per cent interest.

Others can join either a four-year scheme, or a six-year scheme, and will receive 12 per cent or 32 per cent interest respectively when the schemes mature.

Any person — a couple with a joint account can each join individually — can place in any one of these three schemes \$500,000 worth of "arrangement" shares, according to their October 6 shekel

price, of any of the five major banking groups which joined the "arrangement" with the government guaranteeing their dollar equivalent.

Thus, each person can lock away a total of \$2.5m, if he or she had \$500,000 of the shares of each of the following banking groups: I.D.B. and Discount; Hapoalim; Leumi and Union; Mizrahi; and the General Bank.

In addition any person who wants his shares (which now provide an annual tax-free dollar yield of about 15 per cent) to float, can sell them at any time within the next five years. At the end of five years they will be redeemed at their dollar equivalent value of October 6 plus 4 per cent.

These shares can also be bought at any time during these five years. At present, they yield 15 per cent, and they are the best financial instrument in Israel — provided the

government can honour its redemption pledge. However, these "arrangement" shares bear the identical government pledge issued to other financial instruments, such as index-linked bonds and Patam — foreign-currency accounts.

There were 57 billion worth of these "arrangement" shares on October 6.

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Civilian worker dies of wounds from ambush

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TIBERIAS. — Shimon Shushan, a Public Works Department employee who was wounded three weeks ago in a terrorist attack in Lebanon, died of his wounds and was buried here yesterday.

Hundreds of the town's residents and his colleagues attended his burial.

Shushan, 44, was the father of nine children.

In the ambush near the village of Ansar in Southern Lebanon, another PWD worker, Aharon Ovadia, was killed and another PWD worker was seriously wounded and is still hospitalized.

Zealots again lose their appeal on Tiberias hotel

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TIBERIAS. — A Magistrates Court judge here yesterday rejected an appeal by the local burial society, Atza Kadisha, to halt construction of a new wing at the Ganei Hamat Hotel, which the society suspects is built over Jewish graves.

This was the fifth such appeal by the burial society — all of which have been turned down.

Shlomo Gromman, manager of the Israel-Africa Investment Company, said yesterday that in spite of the court's decision, his company would not be able to resume its construction, because of continued harassment by religious zealots.

Gromman said that this week the zealots sent letters to the West German investors backing the project, which included direct threats and accusations that they are "trading with the bones of Jews."

Members of the Presidents' Conference, on their last day in Israel, said they would try help increase the sales of Israeli products in the U.S.

Postcard drive for expulsion of Nazi criminal

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal yesterday announced a worldwide postcard campaign to demand that the Chilean government expel Walther Rauff, inventor of the mobile gas chamber.

Wiesenthal was speaking in Washington.

Six million postcards with a picture of Rauff on one side and on the other a demand to expel Rauff have been printed and addressed to the military strongman of the Chilean junta, Augustus Pinochet.

Heading the campaign in Israel is the Efrat-Africa Investment Company, a historian Efraim Zuroff is coordinating the organization. Those interested in receiving postcards to mail to Pinochet can call 02-931225, or write to the Efrat council, zip code 90962.

(A story about Rauff appears in today's weekend magazine.)



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on the birth of their

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Maurice A. Jaffe
Chairman

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To Jack and Rina Allalouf, New York
To Guedalia and Helena Allalouf, Trappan, N.Y. and Tel Aviv

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on the birth of the firstborn daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter

JACQUELINE

Allalouf Families, Tel Aviv

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Joe and Debbie Allalouf, New York
Jack and Rina Allalouf, New York
Guedalia and Helena Allalouf, Trappan, N.Y. and Tel Aviv

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Iran, Iraq locked in heavy ground fighting

BAHRAIN (Reuters). — Iran and Iraq were locked in heavy ground fighting yesterday after Iranian forces launched an offensive in the central sector of the front.

Shortly after Tehran announced the start of the offensive, about 175 kilometres east of Baghdad, Iraq said it had destroyed seven "enemy" naval targets in a convoy at the head of the Gulf.

The two actions, which follow air and shelling bombardments of towns on both sides and renewed Iranian threats to blockade the Gulf, brought the 40-month-old conflict between the two Moslem neighbours to a new and dangerous phase.

Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp., said Iranian troops had launched a big offensive at midnight and within 11 hours had broken through Iraq's front-line after heavy trench fighting.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi forces had contained the attack and launched a counter-offensive, adding part of the attacking Iranian force had been destroyed.

The Iranian national news agency Irna said tens of sq kms had been taken, with Iranian troops capturing

an Iraqi supply route and several strategic heights.

An Iranian military communique quoted by the radio said the fourth Iraqi Border Guard Brigade was destroyed and hundreds of Iraqi troops killed or injured. Iraq's 47th Infantry Battalion headquarters had also been destroyed, it said.

Diplomats in Baghdad recently said reports from Tehran indicated about 500,000 Iranian army and Revolutionary Guard troops had been sent to the central and southern fronts in preparation for an offensive, after several months of stagnation in the ground fighting.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said five "enemy" naval targets had been destroyed in naval and air attacks in the Khur Musa area at the head of the Gulf.

He said two other "targets" in the same convoy trying to enter the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini had been destroyed by Iraqi-launched mines. He did not identify the ships, but said all Iraqi gunboats and planes returned safely to base.

Bandar Khomeini is the site of a joint Japanese-Iranian petrochemical project. Work on the 80 per cent complete complex was halted in 1981 after a series of Iraqi bomb attacks.

Reagan impressed by Chernenko's attitude

WASHINGTON (AP). — President Reagan said Wednesday evening that Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, appears "ready to put our relationship on a more constructive basis."

Reagan, reporting on Vice-President George Bush's meeting with the new general-secretary of the Soviet Communist party, said in a prepared speech that he and the vice-president "have the impression that the new Soviet leadership is making an effort to downplay rhetoric and to explore ways to promote a more useful dialogue."

In his first public comments on the change in Soviet leadership since the death of president Yuri Andropov, Reagan stressed hopes for progress in the U.S.-Soviet relationship, reflecting an apparent administration decision to play down some of the tougher statements Chernenko has also made.

Reagan, in remarks prepared for a Republican party fund-raising dinner, said that when Bush met Chernenko in Moscow on Tuesday after Andropov's funeral, the vice-president emphasized "America's desire for greater mutual understand-

ing and genuine cooperation between our two countries."

"He also made clear our concerns over issues such as human rights and regional conflicts," Reagan said.

Saying he was sharing with his audience Bush's impressions of the new leadership in the Kremlin, the president said "the atmosphere was positive."

"Although Secretary Chernenko did not depart from standard Soviet positions, he did appear ready to put our relationship on more constructive basis," Reagan said.

Since Chernenko was elevated to the pre-eminent position in the Soviet hierarchy on Monday, the Reagan administration has sought to portray itself as willing to move forward with arms control and on other points that have been stumbling blocks in the deteriorating relationship with the Kremlin.

After Chernenko, in his first speech after being given the job of general-secretary, criticized "adventurists" — a criticism aimed at the U.S. — the State Department chose to ignore that comment and focus on elements of his speech seeking progress.

Gorbachev reported No. 2 in Kremlin's leadership

MOSCOW (AP). — Politburo member Mikhail Gorbachev, rumored to have sought the party leadership over Konstantin Chernenko, played a key role in the party meeting that named Chernenko general-secretary and is said to have taken the No. 2 spot in the Kremlin.

Gorbachev's powerful position was first suggested by photos of the Politburo lineup at the funeral for Yuri Andropov this week. It seemed to be confirmed by the official

brochure on the Central Committee plenum that elected Chernenko on Monday.

The brochure, obtained by the Associated Press yesterday in advance of its public release, showed that Gorbachev formally closed the meeting "in behalf of the Politburo."

Such a privilege would not have been given to Gorbachev and then confirmed by an official publication unless he had assumed a leading position on the Politburo.

The statement by Gorbachev was not previously reported in the state-run press. Press reports mentioned only speeches by Chernenko, who opened the plenum, and Premier Nikolai Tikhonov.

OSCAR. — Terms of Endearment, the story of an eccentric mother and a wilful daughter, scored top honours yesterday at the 56th annual Academy Award nominations, placing in 11 categories.

Strauss confers with top Syrians

DAMASCUS (AP). — West German politician Franz Josef Strauss conferred separately with President Hafiz Assad and Prime Minister Abdel-Raouf Al-Kusm here yesterday.

Strauss, who is in Syria for what he termed as a "private visit" had conferred separately with Syrian Defence Minister Lt.-Gen. Mustafa Tlass, Foreign Minister, Abdel Halim Khaddam and Rifat Assad, the president's brother, immediately after his arrival the previous day.

He said he was invited to Syria "by the Syrian government, in particular by Gen. Tlass, whom I met during my previous visit to Syria in 1977."

The row over union activities at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham in western England has developed into an embarrassment for Thatcher and her foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The House of Commons Select Committee on Employment, in which Thatcher's Conservative supporters have a six-to-five majority over the opposition Labour Party, told her she should forget about trying to force organized labour out of the centre and negotiate a no-strike agreement with the unions.

The Cheltenham centre eavesdrops on the radio communications of the Soviet Union and other foreign powers.

The government said the ban is needed because a series of disputes several years ago had damaged national security. (AP/Reuters)

Chances of peace receded since Sadat, widow says

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — Peace in the Middle East has receded dangerously since Egyptian president Anwar Sadat was assassinated in 1981, his widow Jehan Sadat said here yesterday.

"People in Egypt say if Sadat had been alive things would have been different," she told reporters, adding that the situation in the Middle East was grim.

"But I am optimistic because Sadat's spirit endures," she said.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last December after years of bitter differences, and Egypt's re-admission to the Organization of the Islamic Conference at Casablanca last month

are hopeful signs, because Egypt at no stage has changed its basic policies," she added.

Mrs. Sadat was one of the speakers at a three-day Universal Peace Conference organized at the town of Mount Abu, in the western state of Rajasthan, by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, a religious organization.

"I am trying to continue my husband's mission for peace," Mrs. Sadat said. "When over a million Egyptians flowed out of the sidestreets in Cairo to hail my husband on his return from Jerusalem, it was not just the relief of putting an end to nearly 30 years of war — it was an expression of that philosophy," she said.

World's desert areas keep spreading

NAIROBI (AP). — Curbing the spread of the world's deserts by the year 2000 is no longer possible, and "global catastrophes" could result, a top UN expert said yesterday.

"Desertification," the transformation of productive land into deserts, continues without letup at the rate of 14.8 million acres (59.2 million dunams) a year, said Ja'far Karrar, chief of the desertification branch of the Nairobi-based UN Environmental Programme.

At that rate, the Sudanese microbiologist told a breakfast for journalists, "we could lose one-third of the world's existing arable area by the end of the century."

In 1977, 94 nations agreed in Nairobi on a "plan of action" to arrest the spread of deserts by the year 2000. But Karrar said that goal is "no longer feasible," primarily because of governments' lack of political will and insufficient financing.

Thatcher angry over charges against son

LONDON. — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 30, acted on behalf of Cementation International Ltd. during its bid to win a contract to build a university in Oman at the same time that his mother was using her influence as prime minister to secure the contract for Britain.

Mark Thatcher was quoted by The Sunday Times last Sunday as saying he was involved in securing the contract that Oman awarded to Cementation in 1981.

But he denied he exploited his mother's position to enable the firm to win the contract and said criticism in Britain over the affair was "very distressing to me and my family."

In another development, Thatcher faces growing pressure to retreat on her controversial plan to ban trade unions from a secret electronic spy centre.

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The government said the ban is needed because a series of disputes several years ago had damaged national security. (AP/Reuters)



Cardinal Glemp. (Camera Press)

Polish prelate defends curbs on priests

WARSAW (AP). — Poland's Roman Catholic Primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp, departing Warsaw yesterday for a month-long tour of Argentina and Brazil, defended his handling of priests who support the banned Solidarity Labour federation.

Glemp, speaking to reporters at Okęcie airport, also said he expects no breakthrough before March in negotiations to establish full diplomatic relations between Warsaw and the Vatican.

The Polish cardinal headed first to Rome, whence he will depart tomorrow for Brazil.

"It is a purely pastoral visit," Glemp said, explaining that he wants to meet with ethnic Poles living in South America. He denied speculation that he will seek to interest them in a proposed church foundation to channel western aid to private Polish farmers.

Glemp also confirmed that a militant priest, the Rev. Mieczyslaw Nowak, was being transferred from Warsaw's industrial suburb of Ursus, a Solidarity hotbed, to a remote country parish 100 kilometres west of the capital.

"He is being transferred, but I would not say it was at my request," said Glemp. He declined to say who made the request, but said the move was a promotion because the priest is currently the assistant provost at St. Jozef's church in Ursus.

Communist authorities are pressuring the church to muzzle militant priests like Nowak, Lech Walesa's friend Rev. Henryk Jankowski in Gdansk and the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko of Warsaw.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Korean photographed death throes of mistress

SEOUL (Reuters). — The South Korean Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death sentence imposed on a photographer for poisoning his mistress and capturing her death throes on film, court officials said.

Lee Dong Shik, 42, an ex-convict and member of the Korean Photographic Artists Association, was found guilty of killing Kim Kyong Hee, 24, in December 1982 to take pictures of her dying moments and also to prevent her telling his wife about their affair.

A series of photographs presented to the court as evidence showed her slowly dying in agony on a mountain south of Seoul, the officials said. Lee tied her hands and stripped her before hiding her body in a ditch, they added.

Malaysia bans monkey exports for scientific research

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters). — Malaysia, a major supplier of monkeys for scientific research in developed countries, has imposed a five-year ban on further exports after hearing the animals were used in nuclear and chemical-warfare experiments and treated cruelly.

An official said Malaysia only allowed monkey exports in the past because it believed it was contributing to medical research.

But investigations by the Washington-based International Primate Protection League (IPPL) revealed that some Malaysian monkeys were being subjected to nuclear radiation and chemical-warfare tests in the U.S.

15 injured as bandits attack Sudanese steamer

KHARTOUM (AP). — Fifteen passengers aboard a Nile River steamer were injured when south Sudan bandits opened fire on the vessel and four barges it was towing and set a consignment of petroleum products ablaze, the newspaper Al-Ayam reported yesterday.

The government-owned newspaper said the petroleum products were aboard the barges and indicated the fire was confined to one or more of the towed craft and did not spread to the steamer itself.

This was the latest in a series of conflicting reports of the incident by the official Sudan news agency and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Sports

SARAJEVO OLYMPICS U.S.'s Johnson and Switzerland's Fignini rulers of the Olympic mountains

SARAJEVO. — American Bill Johnson and Swiss Michela Fignini were crowned king and queen of the mountains yesterday. They skied their way to gold medal success in the glamour Olympic men's and women's downhill, finally held after a week of storms in the mountains overlooking Sarajevo.

Although Johnson, 23, and Fignini, 17, claimed the titles on slopes 60km apart they shared a common bond — a superb gliding style perfectly suited to the straight-line battle grounds on which the titles were fought.

Fignini, like Johnson, hardly rated among the skiing elite last year, was the first to shoot to Olympic fame. Ninety minutes later it was Johnson's turn to spear through the ranks of the race-hardened veterans and end Europe's monopoly of the blue ribbon speed test. He carved himself a place in the skiing record books by becoming the first American to win an Olympic downhill since medals were first awarded in 1948. No American, indeed, has ever placed higher than fifth before.

Sweden won the 4 x 10-kilometre country relay for the first time since 1964. Sven Svane, winner of the 15-kilometre race on Monday, anchored the Sweden quartet to victory and collected his second gold medal of the games.

Goetsch Boucher won the men's 1500 metres speed skating and became the first Canadian to win a gold medal in the history of the Winter Games.

Two other gold medals were handed out yesterday — to the Norwegian women's 4 x 5 km cross-country team and to West Germany's two-man bobsled, piloted by Hans Steninger and Franz Wenzel.

SOCCER PREVIEW Focus all on Jaffa

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The three top games in the 18th round of National League soccer all take place in Jaffa tomorrow. League leaders Betar Jerusalem are away against Yehud at the Maccabi Jaffa ground with a princely double-header featured at the nearby Bloomfield Stadium.

Maccabi Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa clash in the main game with last season's champions Maccabi Netanya up against Shironon, last season's runners-up, in the early match.

Betar fans will be more than a little anxious to see their team return to the form they had shown in the first half of the season. Yehud, however, are a tough nut to crack.

That is normally due largely to their star goalkeeper Arie Haviv. And, he will not be playing tomorrow, having been sent off last week for kicking an opponent. His place will be taken by Ronnie Tzabari for whom this could be an awesome debut in First Division football. El Ohana, Uri Malmillian and Danny

Neuman are confidently expected to show the Yehud defence little mercy.

After four games without a win, second-placed Hapoel Tel Aviv have their supporters worried. Shabtay Levy, Gil Landau, Dor Kemler and Moshe Sinai seem to have lost their shooting boots, but they will not have many better chances of collecting three points than in the game against third-placed Ramat Amichai.

Fans at Bloomfield are in for a treat with two highly competitive matches in the early evening. Netanya will be seeking their seventh win in succession, but Olnei Maccabi David, David "Pini" Pined and their able back-up will probably face stiff opposition from Shironon, a team that will be keen to improve on its rather unimpressive 10th place in the standings.

The main prize will be between third and fourth placed Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv. Since the arrival of Zahi Arad from Shironon to spearhead the Haifa attack they have looked considerably more dangerous from the front. The return of Benny Tzabari to the Tel Aviv front line, on the other hand, will be welcomed by the Tel Aviv fans, and Yehud, Perez, Moti Tzabari and Alon Nathan have also seen in top form. The Tel Avivians entered last season's top tier with high hopes, but have since then, and on smaller grounds, been let down by their own players.

Overseas stars for squash Open

By JACK LEON
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Twenty-five competitors from abroad are due here over the weekend for Israel's second annual professional squash championships, which start at 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Herzliya Squash Centre. The guests, who are coming from Australia, England, Scotland, South Africa and Zimbabwe, will be joined by nearly 100 local players at the week-long tournament. The group from the U.K. includes Iranian Hussein Mahjoub — at present coaching in Birmingham — and some half-dozen members of the Royal Air Force squash team.

Missing, however, will be Egyptian Moustafa El Solh, the men's open champion at last year's championships, who now also coaches in the English Midlands. Avraham Alon chairman of the Israel Squash Association said Cairo's estimated 100 Central Squash Rackets Club had been invited to send several players to the championships as guests of the association, but the Egyptians had disappointingly not even acknowledged the invitation.

Others to watch include Bob Lutz, Jim Priester, Tim Mayotte, David Pate, John Arkin, Elit Telchew, Mike DePalmer and Steve Tischer, all of the U.S. and John Lloyd of Britain.

Fiery John McEnroe celebrates his birthday in grand style in Sydney last night when he beat Sweden's Mats Wilander to move closer to finals spot in the \$400,000-Gold challenge invitation event. In front of a rapturous crowd, McEnroe shut the Swede out of the match winning 6-1 6-2 6-2 in just 60 minutes.

The ease of McEnroe's performance, so daunting, a fact to which Wilander attested, "I don't think I have ever seen him play better and had nothing on the night to really trouble him."

Tough going for Perkins

Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Israel's No. 2 tennis player Shahar Perkins is finding his first experience of the indoor game a far from happy one in this month's \$33,000 five-tournament ATP satellite circuit competition in Britain.

Following his first-round singles loss in the series opener eighth-seeded Perkins did manage one win in Peterborough this week, squeaking through 7-5, 4-4, 7-5 against American Greg Armstrong — younger brother of Victor Amey — in the first round. But the young Israeli was then beaten 6-3, 6-2 by local opponent Robert Green.

Perkins, who is now winding up his military service, is teaching his career as a full-time tennis professional on the British satellite circuit.

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Dallas milestone

NEW YORK (AP). — Together Dick Motta and the Dallas Mavericks are reaching milestones. Motta coached his 650th victory in the Mavericks' defeated Philadelphia 76ers 119-116 in double overtime on Wednesday night for their first victory over the defending National Basketball Association champions in the franchise's three-year history.

"The atmosphere was playful type. It was a sellout and we were playing the world champions. I win couldn't have come against a better club. This win should help the franchise," Motta said. "I'm tickled to death with the result."

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Jerusalem downtown crossroads of Jaffa Road and King George, looking east

(Aliza Auerbach)

Two peoples — one city

By MICHAEL EILAN/Jerusalem Post Reporter

AT ABOUT 3 o'clock in the afternoon on the eastern edges of Jaffa Road, two powerful magnets can be felt pulling people back to their separate parts of Jerusalem. Seen from a tall building, it looks like the peaceful and well-run disengagement of two rival ant colonies. The Arabs go east and the Jews go west. For many, the careful ballet that has been practised for the last 17 years has become the most natural thing in the world, an arrangement that could last for ever.

Alex Weingrod, an anthropologist who has completed a study on relations between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem, says that foreign visitors to Lebanon in the 1950s were deeply impressed by the "ballet of disengagement" practised between the various communities there. "It was a miracle until the system stopped working."

Going back to Jerusalem, his first assumption is that the system there does work. There are some signs of improvement in relations, such as the larger number of Arabs who took part in last October's municipal elections. But there are also indications that the system is wearing thin.

Weingrod did his research for the Jerusalem Institute of Israel Studies. He worked with a team of three Jews and two Arabs: Michael Steinberg, Rina Ben-Shaul, Michael Matar, Mazen Aba-Ita and Idan Yaron.

They looked at three areas in which Jews and Arabs come into contact — at work, in adjacent neighbourhoods, and in the political contacts that seem to keep the system functioning.

ONE OF THE TWO work places the team examined was a factory with about 400 workers — many of them Arabs. The management claimed that conditions for both Arabs and Jews were equal, and Weingrod said that, as far as he could discern, this was true.

One of the shift foremen is an Arab who has Jews working under him, and there was at one time an Arab division head. Pay is equal and the signs are in both Hebrew and Arabic. The Arab workers say that the owner of the factory is fair, and repeat a story about how he fired a Jew who started a fist-fight with an Arab.

A factory can, up to a certain point, be insulated from the outside world. But resentments and tensions surface there too. The Jews complain that the management prefers Arab workers. One Jewish foreman quoted by Weingrod said, "There's something different about the quality of the Arabs; they always come to work with a newspaper."

The Arabs talk about discrimination and constant "small humiliations." If an Arab works with Jews on a certain project, Weingrod says, the Arabs say the Jews "just assume" that the Arab will clean up afterwards.

The Jewish work force is getting older, but the Arabs say they see too little chance for advancement. Outside events also increase tensions.

During the height of the Lebanon war, Weingrod says the Arabs felt very unhappy about producing (non-military) goods they knew were going to an army that was fighting Palestinians.

All of these tensions tend to make both Jews and Arabs prefer to work in unmixed teams. In fact, Weingrod found an increasing tendency to work in separate shifts.

Jews AND ARABS also live close together. Weingrod's team looked at two neighbourhoods where one could assume there would be at least a little contact: Abu Tor, which is split into two parts, and Beit Safafa and Part, which are tucked into each other.

The phrase the researchers heard most in their interviews was "we just live side by side." There are hardly any contacts between Jews and Arabs in the neighbourhoods. The only level on which some friendship was found was in what Weingrod calls "young, almost criminal street gangs." But this contact also ceases as soon as the Jewish teenagers join the army.

The Arabs in Beit Safafa say they no longer look for contact with Jews because of previous disappointments. Much of the village's land has been seized by Jews and there is a conservative religious element that sees the Jewish-Israeli culture as responsible for the erosion of the traditional values of the Palestinian village.

When Weingrod started to look at the political arrangements that keep the city functioning, he first had to reckon with Mayor Teddy Kollek, who promotes the idea of a "mosaic" of communities in Jerusalem and more or less created the system that Weingrod investigated.

IT IS KOLLEK's formidable network of personal contacts that represents at least half of the basic structure of the system. The other half is through the office of the municipal adviser on Arab affairs, who handles all the Arab contacts with city officialdom.

It is, to a certain extent, a "patronage system," Weingrod found.

The Arab leaders who deal with Kollek are "experts at nuances," Weingrod says, and have learned to operate within the system.

But the most basic truth about Jewish-Arab relations is that "we have a system of a conqueror and the conquered." What worries Weingrod is that so many of the political arrangements that keep the show together are personal and based on unwritten agreements. He finds this too reminiscent of pre-civil war Lebanon.

The only way Weingrod sees to strengthen the basic structure of the system is the development of joint leadership bodies comprising both Arabs and Jews. He does not say what these bodies would actually do, but notes that attempts by Kollek to persuade Arabs to stand for election to the city council have failed.

'Contacts between Jews and Arabs are much stronger today than they were when I began'

Abraham Rabinovich interviews Maurice Zilka, who advised Mayor Teddy Kollek on Arab affairs.



THE ARAB-ISRAEL situation may seem as hopeless as ever; but at the one major point of contact between the two peoples things have never been so good and they're getting better all the time.

This expert assessment is made by a man who knows that it sounds too good to be true, and is aware that it could take little more than a puff of smoke to prove it to be so. Meanwhile, he feels, there is no alternative but to face the rocky reality.

"We've had no serious troubles with the Arabs of Jerusalem in the past three years, even though we've been pressing them very hard," says Maurice Zilka, now concluding almost three years of duty as Mayor Teddy Kollek's adviser on Arab affairs. "Contacts between Jews and Arabs are much stronger today than they were when I began. Things are getting better and better, because that is the dynamic of life."

The Iraqi-born Zilka, who is now becoming director-general of the World Zionist Organization's information department, has been a prime witness to this dynamic. He has been the Israeli official most intimately involved in the daily life of Jerusalem's Arab sector — by far the largest Arab concentration in the country, and one caught up, willy-nilly, in routine contact with the Jewish community.

THE MEASURE of goodness begins with what hasn't happened. There is no inter-communal rape, for one thing. "Rape is something that happens in every city, but you don't see it happening here between Arabs and Jews," notes Zilka. There are no street-gang fights between, say, Moroccan Jews from Musarra and Arabs from the adjacent Old City, or between the Katamonim and Beit Safafa. "It's a natural thing to have — forget politics, just on the basis of poverty. But here, nothing."

There have been no anti-Israeli or anti-Arab riots during the Lebanese war, and there was no trouble even at the time of the Sabra and Shatilla massacre. In general, the level of stone-throwing and other disturbances is marginal compared to the West Bank.

This restraint has been manifested despite what Zilka feels were grave provocations by Jewish extremists, during this period. The attack on the Temple Mount by a rifle-wielding American immigrant who killed an Arab on the holy site and put bullet-holes in the Dome of the Rock was perhaps the grimmest incident. The purported plan by religious right-wingers to break into the Temple Mount at night last year and the recently foiled attempt by TNT terrorists to place explosives there likewise touched the most sensitive chords of religious and nationalist emotions. The incursion of Jewish settlers into the Moslem Quarter and the expropriation of Arab land for the South Neve Yaacov development did not ease tensions.

DESPITE all this, some 13,000 East Jerusalemites voted in the last municipal elections for a Zionist mayor. To be sure, the bulk of them were not voting for Teddy Kollek because of his Zionism but because they saw him as someone who would defend their interests. Nevertheless, the voter turn-out, higher than ever before, was a clear indication of voluntary involvement in Israeli affairs.

Zilka says he is convinced, on the basis of conversations with East Jerusalemites, that they will in the not distant future field their own slate of candidates for the city council, where they would be entitled to more than a quarter of the seats.

East Jerusalemites are likewise participating more than ever before in adult education courses sponsored by the municipality. "There are 2,000 women now in adult education courses in Issawiya, Jebel Mukaber, Silwan and other neighbourhoods. They go for two or three hours in the afternoon to study something. They never had anything like this in their lives, and they know the municipality is responsible."

Some 40,000 Jerusalem Arabs, one-third of the total, have joined the Histadrut in order to secure health care and pension rights, even though they remain Jordanian citizens. In the past year, the municipality has had four seminars

for East Jerusalem principals and teachers, in which they visited schools in the Jewish sector and met Israeli educators.

A major element in inter-communal relations in the city is the fact that more than 20,000 Arabs — close to half the breadwinners — work in the Jewish sector. "This is a development you don't have in the Arab sector anywhere else in Israel," says Zilka. "It means the development of personal relations. These contacts are getting stronger."

The Arabs no longer ask favours of the authorities: they now demand their rights as taxpayers.

IT IS IRONIC, Zilka notes, that while relations between Israel's Arabs and Jews are worsening, relations with the Jordanian citizens living in East Jerusalem are improving.

While Arab Jerusalemites unquestionably want to be rid of Israeli rule, says Zilka, they have been deeply affected by their acquaintance with Israeli democracy. "These 17 years have done something. They want to live in a Palestinian state, but a democratic one."

The Lebanon war and the rout of the PLO, says Zilka, reinforced the feeling in East Jerusalem that Israel is here to stay.

Beneath the surface, he acknowledges, the city is tense. "If something explodes, it could all change very quickly."

Nevertheless, East Jerusalemites have never had it so good economically and "have a lot to lose." Unlike their brethren on the West Bank, he says, they feel that the local authorities are on their side against the extremists.

"People ask whether the city is united or not. I think it's more united than many other cities. I was in New York during the blackout they had, and it was terrifying. It was like a pogrom. We have to equalize the services in East Jerusalem and address social problems. For instance, we should provide youth clubs to help fill the gap created by the end of the patriarchal system there. We have to do this because we're going to be living together for many hundreds of years."

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expresses its deep thanks and appreciation to all of those in Israel who helped to make our Mission here this week so memorable.

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PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan now says he wants to revive his ill-fated 1982 Arab-Israeli peace initiative. Lebanon, he says, is no longer going to stand in the way of a new, concerted U.S. drive to promote this broader peace process.

But Reagan still needs the cooperation of Jordan's King Hussein, a visitor — together with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak — to Washington in recent days. The entire Reagan Plan, of course, was premised on the assumption that Hussein would become involved in it. The final status of the West Bank, Reagan proposed, was to be "in association with Jordan."

Unfortunately, however, Hussein again made it clear that he is not yet prepared to move without the active support of Yasser Arafat. Thus, the embattled PLO chairman still has a veto over the peace process.

According to senior U.S. officials who briefed reporters at the White House following Reagan's sessions with the Egyptian and Jordanian leaders, Hussein and Arafat will resume their negotiations in the coming weeks. A green light from Arafat is seen as critical to Hussein's entering U.S.-sponsored peace talks with Israel.

Israeli officials in Washington and Jerusalem are understandably edgy about all this diplomatic ac-

Umpromising talk with Hussein

By WOLF BLITZER/Washington

tivity. But they really need not be so agitated. All this effort is unlikely to lead to very much actual substance.

Arafat, remember, did not authorize Jordanian representation of the Palestinians in the peace talks a year ago — before his humiliating ouster from Tripoli by rebel PLO forces backed by the Syrians. Today, a weakened Arafat struggling for his very survival within the PLO is even more unlikely to make those tough decisions needed to open genuine peace talks. Any such decision on his part would further splinter his umbrella group. In short, the PLO rejectionists, backed by Syria, Libya and others, would go crazy.

So Reagan, Hussein and Mubarak can make all the statements they want about renewing the peace process irrespective of the latest crumbling of Lebanon, but as long as Arafat holds the trump card, nothing much is going to happen.

That, in turn, means that Israel's nervousness may be unnecessary.

THERE ARE other reasons why Reagan is not likely to see much progress in the coming months. For

one thing, he will be preoccupied by his own effort to win re-election. He can make all sorts of promises that domestic politics are not going to stand in the way of his peace plan; but everyone — especially the Arabs — knows that that simply is not so. Even if Reagan were inclined to accept some bold strokes this year, his top political advisers would not let him.

At best, Reagan can hope to maintain some semblance of diplomatic momentum even if nothing really gets off the ground. After the November election — assuming he wins — things will probably change.

The first year of a second Reagan administration may put the relatively strong U.S.-Israeli relationship of today under fresh strains. First years of new administrations — whether first term or second term — have generally been difficult for that relationship. New elections are four years down the road. New in-

itiatives are often promoted. That usually translates into pressures on Israel to make concessions.

Recent history underlined this trend. The Rogers Plan was released in 1969 — the first year Richard Nixon was in the White House. Jimmy Carter spoke of a Palestinian "homeland" in 1977, his first year in office. And it was in 1981 that Reagan promoted the Saudi AWACS sale and imposed military sanctions against Israel for knocking out the Iraqi nuclear reactor and annexing the Golan Heights — despite Reagan's very pro-Israel campaign rhetoric in 1980.

THERE WILL BE bumps and bruises in the U.S.-Israeli relationship this year, despite the campaigning for Jewish votes. For one thing, there is very deep, and apparently growing, resentment against Israel for moving into Lebanon in June 1982 and supposedly starting the chain of events

that has resulted in the current debacle for America. Increasingly, U.S. officials are allowing their own irritation against Israel to surface during private sessions with journalists and others.

Reagan's political advisers, moreover, are looking for a scapegoat to answer the question, "Who lost Lebanon?" They are surely not going to blame the president for the current mess. Increasingly, Israel is emerging as that scapegoat. This is widely reflected in the U.S. news media, where bitterness against former prime minister Menachem Begin and former defense minister Ariel Sharon is becoming even more commonplace.

Understandably, Israeli diplomats in Washington and their supporters in the Jewish community and elsewhere are aware of this trend. They have been gearing up with arguments to counter them. They note, for example, that Israel never asked the U.S. to send the Marines into Lebanon. This was strictly a U.S. decision. They also point out that the Eisenhower

White House sent U.S. troops to Lebanon in 1958. That decision, too, had nothing to do with Israel. But the popular and simplistic notion that America would not find itself in this current predicament if Israel had not moved towards Beirut in 1982 is becoming more widespread and is likely to pose serious public relations problems for Israel in the weeks and months ahead.

Israel, so far, has not been widely blamed for the deaths of over 260 Marines. But that too could change unless a very intensive, pre-emptive pro-Israeli information campaign is undertaken very quickly.

"We're facing a major challenge," an Israeli official commented.

CERTAINLY Mubarak sought to promote this anti-Israeli line during his stay in Washington. He charged that Israel's invasion of Lebanon was "the root and the cause of the present sad situation in the area." He called for "the prompt and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces." He made no mention of Syria's occupation of Lebanon.

Those Americans blaming Israel for the problems in Lebanon, by the way, have been encouraged by the well-publicized debate underway in Israel itself. The recriminations

against Begin and Sharon have been extensively reported in the U.S. as have the Peace Now demonstrations and the notion that this war has been a political, military and economic disaster for Israel. Thus, those Americans expressing criticism of Israel need only point to the numerous statements coming from Israel itself to back it up.

Finally, there is yet another reason why progress on the peace front is unlikely in the coming months. Reagan has not exactly instilled great confidence in his leadership. His intentions are good, but his understanding of the complex problems in the Middle East clearly leaves much to be desired.

The administration's dismal performance in Lebanon has certainly weakened U.S. prestige and influence in the region. The abrupt decision to remove the Marines and the emerging collapse of the Jemayel government are bound to further weaken respect for America among both its friends and its adversaries. Syria, backed by the Soviet Union, has surfaced as a major winner these past hectic weeks. The U.S., moderate Arabs, Israel, Lebanon and peace are the losers.

The writer is the Washington correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.



A member of the Samuels family

(Ehud Malitz)

Jews of Rangoon

By JONATHAN BRAUDE
Special to The Jerusalem Post

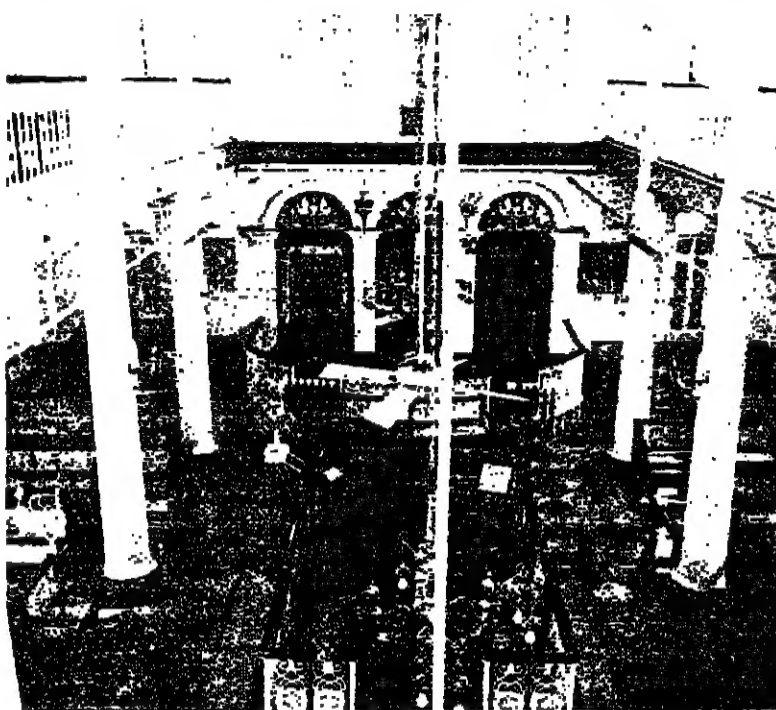
THE Indian market of downtown Rangoon may seem an unlikely setting for a place of Jewish worship. But here, at the corner of Maha Bandoola and 26th Streets, still relatively untouched by the decay of the surrounding buildings, stands the Mesmeah Yeshua Synagogue.

It is a monument to a dying community. Only a few Jewish families, with names like Hellagwa, Daniels and Aarons, remain in Burma. In the synagogue's attendance book, even those names appear more and more rarely. And behind the curtains of the ark, there are only two silver-covered Tora scrolls on the shelves.

"Once we had 126 scrolls in there, but now they're all in museums and synagogues abroad," says local businessman Jack Samuels, who is hanging on to the last two as a desperate symbol of continuity. "It's part of the heritage of the Jews of Burma," he says.

There aren't enough Jews here to make up a minyan on the Sabbath. Attendance only picks up enough for public prayer on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. On those days, the Israeli ambassador leads the congregation in English so that Jewish officials from other embassies and foreign aid organizations can understand. Without them, there would be no service.

SAMUELS says he himself invited some of the foreigners to attend the services. But now he is worried about the effect that it is having on the local Jewish families. They are not used to Ashkenazi services read in English. Many of them are elderly and trying to survive on inadequate pensions. Their ragged



At left, the interior of the Mesmeah Yeshua Synagogue; at right, the building from outside



(Ehud Malitz)

clothing makes them self-conscious and ill at ease among the well-dressed embassy people. As a result some of the locals have stopped coming to the synagogue.

The synagogue provides funds for much-needed clothing for these people. But this isn't enough. And today, money that should go to charity is needed to maintain the building itself, which requires extensive repairs.

The fund is also used to help people who want to emigrate. They need papers, advice and preparation for the journey. All this takes time and money in Burma, and Samuels sees to it that all expenses are paid, including the airport departure tax. Only the ticket is provided through the Israeli embassy.

Bertie Manuel, a retired soldier, wants to live out his last years in Israel. "I wrote to President Navon saying I wanted to come, and he wrote back and invited me," says Manuel proudly.

But he continues on a more distressing note: "Some people are

saying I'm too old to go to Israel. But I've got no relatives here either; so why not join the Burmese community there?"

Manuel says he never married because he could not find a Jewish wife in Burma.

EMIGRATION and death have been the main features of the history of the community for nearly 50 years. But it was not always like that. Before the War, there were 2,500 Jews in Rangoon. Like Jack Samuels, who still runs a thriving catering business, many of them traded in food. Wealthy Jews founded the synagogue in 1896, and the city boasted kosher butchers, Jewish schools and a Jewish cemetery.

A smiling Bertie Manuel traces his ancestors back to "513 Market Street, Oakland, California." But most of the community were the descendants of Iraqi Jews who came via Bombay. Even when there was no longer a local "rav," an Indian rabbi was flown in from Calcutta for marriages and bar mitzva ceremonies.

But the community has had no rabbi now for more than 20 years. And with no kosher butcher, those who remain buy "half meat from their Moslem neighbors." "My father wouldn't have touched it," says Samuels. "But now there is no choice."

The cemetery more than any other place brings home to the visitor the desolation of the community. With a mosque on one side and a Buddhist monastery on the other, the graveyard with its Jewish tombstones could almost serve as a symbol of the country's genuine religious freedom. But the most recent tombstones are inscribed in English, since Hebrew lettering is a lost art in Burma.

JACK SAMUELS, married to an American, could leave if he wanted to. But he says he will stay. "I have a business which my father and grandfather built up," he says. "I cannot just go."

The synagogue is another reason why he stays. Without him, he feels, it would fall into disuse and the government might take back the land on which it stands.

Meanwhile, the synagogue is open. Every morning, Burmese secretary Aung Shwe opens its doors and sees to its day-to-day maintenance. A guardian of empty pews, Aung Shwe shows off the visitors' book. "Arzu," (sad), is one stark comment from a recent Israeli visitor.

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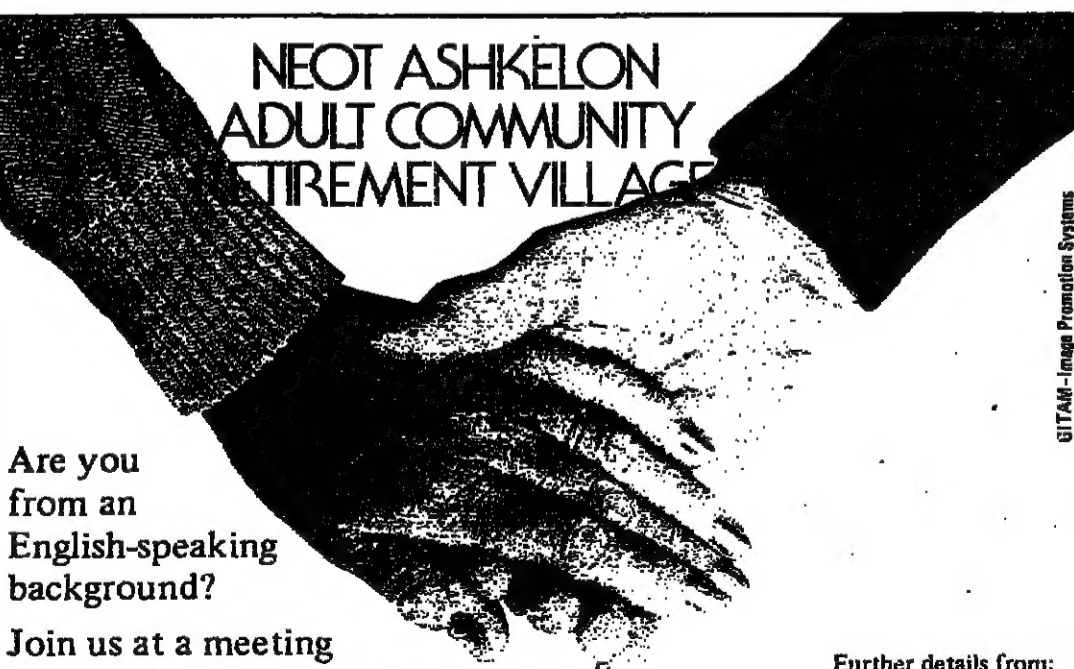


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Jostling for position

By SARAH HONIG

WHEN DEPUTY Prime Minister David Levy addressed presidents earlier in the week, was he only attacking the Reagan administration when he accused the Americans of failing to consult with Israel? This question was uppermost in many minds in the Herut party in the past few days, and most leading party activists agree that the statement ought to be interpreted also in the context of their own party's internal conflicts.

Many of the sentiments expressed by Levy, such as his condemnation of an apparent American readiness to accept a possible Lebanese abrogation of the May 17 agreement with Israel, are clearly shared by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and are popular among the party faithful. Levy may indeed have been trying to score points with the rank and file, but party insiders are convinced that his address included more than a veiled barb against Shamir.

As his words are interpreted in Herut, apart from "justifiably taking the Americans to task," Levy was also casting Shamir's performance as prime minister and foreign minister in a negative light.

He was saying in effect that Shamir's conduct of foreign policy failed to secure minimal U.S. cooperation with and consideration of Israel.

Sources close to Shamir were quick to note that the U.S. did indeed move, but that Levy was not aware of this when he delivered his speech. But this clarification is certain only to fan the Herut flames. Levy has long been complaining that Shamir is playing his cards too close to his chest and that he is keeping Levy in the dark.

Levy's latest carping comments are not simply an outcome of Levy's own aspirations to win the Foreign Affairs portfolio. Levy is reported to be no longer quite as keen on taking over the foreign ministry as he once was. His words rather are seen in the context of a wide range of attacks he has launched recently and which are regarded as part of the internal jostling for position in Herut.

It was in this context, it is noted, that Levy came out again against increases in the cost of electricity, against Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Or's handling of the economy and against the perfor-

mance of Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

All of his targets also happen to be his rivals in Herut. Moreover, Levy's onslaughts coincide — and not by chance — with similar though much more explicit and hard-hitting tongue lashings by Minister-without-Portfolio Ariel Sharon.

SHARON AND LEVY happen to be currently teamed up in an *ad hoc* unofficial alliance against Shamir and his chief allies Arens and Cohen-Or. This despite the long history of acrimony between Sharon and

Levy themselves.

Herut today is divided into four chief factions, headed respectively by Shamir, Arens, Levy and Sharon. The first two are on one side of the tug of war and the latter two on the other. Levy and Shamir vied with each other for Herut primacy and Levy is still potentially a future rival.

The unended war of succession for Menachem Begin's legacy is still the basic source of unrest in Herut. The latest to throw his hat in the ring officially is Sharon, and some say that Arens' own awakened interest in internal party affairs may

prestage some still unannounced plans.

But the lesser prize is the influential post of chairman of the party secretariat, from which former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor resigned some three months ago. An ideal solution for all sides would be if Aridor would reconsider and again fill the vacuum he created at the top. He is equally acceptable to all factions and his resignation never went officially into effect. Aridor is indeed now courted by all factions in an attempt to get him to end his angry suit.

Should that attempt fail, however, Herut would be in trouble. Each side considers the post of such crucial importance that it would do its utmost to prevent it falling into the wrong hands. Shamir would certainly cement his position as top man if his candidate got the job. This is what Levy is out to prevent.

Thus Levy is campaigning against any attempt to call the party executive into session to elect the new secretariat chairman. This, he argues, should be preceded by the holding of the long-overdue Herut convention. Levy is not at all certain that he can muster a majority in the present executive and feels

his chances would be improved after internal party elections are held, followed by a convention. He has not even put up a candidate for the secretariat post. Shamir is seeking to have the vacancy filled by his long-time supporter, MK Ronnie Milo.

ARENS SUPPORTS Shamir in his desire for an early replacement to Aridor, arguing that otherwise the party will simply not function. But he is fielding his own man — MK Mordechai Zipori. Party insiders note that having his own man in so key a position would bolster Arens' strength considerably. But Arens' strategy goes deeper than that — Zipori is perhaps Ariel Sharon's staunchest and most unrelenting adversary and "he would put Sharon in his place" and end his threat to Arens, it is said in Herut.

A Zipori election would be a humiliating defeat for Sharon, whose future in Herut in such an eventuality might become highly questionable. Some in Herut no doubt would like that, but the problem would certainly be Shamir's. Meanwhile, Sharon, like Levy, is out campaigning for a convention to precede any personnel

changes. After the convention, it is not inconceivable that Sharon too might enter the race for the secretariat job.

All this puts both Shamir and Levy in a bind. Unlike the Peres-Rabin feud in Labour, they cannot afford a no-holds-barred confrontation. It is clear to both that if their battle is not gentlemanly and restrained they both would be the losers and the Likud would find itself in the opposition. Thus, though Shamir would like to cement his power, he is wary of creating a forceful and dangerous Sharon-Levy opposition in case he calls an executive session without their consent. The result of such a move could shake his government. Levy too does not dare endanger Likud rule and is keeping his frequent attacks on Shamir and his allies under control to make sure they don't amount to an open declaration of war.

The prediction in Herut now is that the two sides will find themselves in a stand-off for an indefinite period or that they will somehow iron out a temporary compromise.

The writer is the political reporter of The Jerusalem Post.

THE ARTICLE by Steven Cohen in The Jerusalem Post of February 9 does not refute any of the disturbing facts in my article "Dissent or Deceit" (January 6). They were of course culled from Mr. Cohen's own report of his poll on American Jews. Indeed the explanations he offers of his approach and his method will inevitably deepen the concern evoked by a report which can only mislead public opinion and misdirect those who shape it.

The poll was in two parts, one of Jewish communal leaders, the other of "American Jews" at large. The only collective Jewish leadership in the U.S. is the Presidents' Conference. It is far from being completely representative, but one must accept broadly the statement of its week by its current chairman, Julius Berman, that its "37 secular and religious bodies" represent the Jewish stream in Jewish life and speak "on behalf of the overwhelming majority of organized Jewry." For his part of Jewish leaders Cohen included the leaders of 32 out of the 37. It was thus a "poll" of less than a handful of leaders picked by Cohen.

What more needs to be said?

HOWEVER, IT IS interesting to learn from Mr. Cohen how and why he chose precisely those five. "We drew our sample of leaders," he writes, "from the top ruling bodies of the Jewish communal organizations which serve as the principal interlocutors between Israel and the U.S. Thus, we included the Big Three defence agencies — the AJC (American Jewish Committee), The American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League." Further on he suggests that these are the bodies that "shape Jewish 'foreign policy' in the U.S."

This is pure nonsense. No Jewish body or leader serves as "interlocutor" between Israel and the U.S. except perhaps, at times, AIPAC (American-Israel Public Affairs Committee), the so-called lobby. The Presidents' Conference, recognized by the U.S. administration, and by Israel, as representing the Jewish community, has never appointed the "Big Three"

(Cohen's appellation) or its leaders as its spokesmen. The glaring untruth in Cohen's statement can be seen from one simple fact. In the last 10 years, of the five men who successively served as chairman of the Presidents' Conference (and each was automatically its chief spokesman on "foreign affairs"), four did not represent any of Cohen's "Big Three." They were Rabbi Miller, Tom Mann, Rabbi Schindler, and now Julius Berman. The only exception was Howard Squadron of the American Jewish Congress.

There is more to come. Cohen has separate criteria for the leaders of the two other organizations he chose. The UJA was picked because it is a "major institution in the Israel Diaspora relationship." But there are no other major institutions in the "Israel Diaspora relationship," such as for example B'nai B'rith?

Ah, yes, the B'nai B'rith leaders were included — but for another reason entirely: the cozy reason, as Cohen explains, that they asked to be included. How wonderful for B'nai B'rith to have some good old-fashioned *protektzia* with Cohen.

No less illuminating is Cohen's reaction to the reference in my article to *Hadassah* among the Zionist organizations he had ignored. He taps his forehead and exclaims: "Perhaps in retrospect we should have included *Hadassah*, the second largest membership organization after B'nai B'rith."

Here then you have the sum total of elements in the scientific method of Cohen's own arrogant selection; a paramountcy (non-existent) in "foreign affairs," a relationship with Israel; *protektzia*; and an afterthought on the possible importance of size.

Throughout this farrago of absurdities there is not a word of explanation why, having decided to arrogate to himself the right to make a selection, he excluded the leaders of all three major religious organizations — whose membership surely outnumbered that of the other 34 organizations put together — and of all the Zionist bodies, whose intricate involvement with Israel is by

Probing a poll

By SHMUEL KATZ

definition the reason for their very existence.

As an appropriate footnote to this analysis, Cohen's report informs us that about half of the leaders who were approached did not respond to the questions.

ON THE "POPULAR" poll Cohen suggests I charged that there was bias in the sample. Of course I did nothing of the sort. How could he influence a sample of names picked from telephone books? By choosing more Levys than Cohens? Indeed, I wrote that the sample may be representative. It also may not. Who knows — when the total number of respondents is 640 (about half the acceptable minimum for a serious poll), when they were chosen by the Jewish sound of their names (excluding Jews with non-

Jewish names) and when half of those approached did not respond even after three or four reminders? Who can know?

Cohen's replies to the charges of bias I did make are mind-boggling. He had asked:

Below are positions often articulated by some of Israel's political leaders and parties. Indicate whether you agree with those Israelis advocating each of the following positions.

He then poses 10 "positions" relevant to the Arab-Israeli dispute. Of these, only one is a position one can ascribe to the "Likud" school: nine are adversary to "Likud" positions.

To this criticism Cohen replies: "We did ask more Labour-oriented than Likud-oriented questions." More? Nine to one is just "more" —

or, as it is in fact, a minuscule fig-leaf to cover his withholding all but one of the Likud-oriented positions from the respondents to his poll?

He admits now that his method was deliberate. "We wanted," he pleads, "to gauge the depth of dissent." So, the object of the poll was not, then, as stated in his Report: "To increase understanding of how American Jews feel about Israel and why."

Let us ignore — for lack of space — the relevant question of his motive for wanting to gauge and publicize dissent. But if dissent — dissent from what? From positions that Cohen does not even present to the respondent? Is that how one honestly measures dissent? By not stating the positions from which the respondent could dissent?

COHEN REFRAINS from explaining why he did not pose any of the statements I suggested (or similar ones) which would represent at least part of the positions of the present Israeli "Establishment."

To justify the now admitted deliberate bias of his questions he clutches desperately at the excuse

that "the most recent authoritative research has demonstrated that acquiescence effects" — the tendency of people to agree rather than disagree — "are smaller than first supposed and are particularly concentrated among respondents with low education."

Then, presumably realizing the implications even of this authoritative finding, he clutches at the thin air. "Thus," he says, "they are hardly a problem for our respondents, the best-educated group in the U.S."

What remarkable mystic powers Cohen ascribes to himself. He picks 640 names taken from telephone directories and he knows that they are "the best-educated group in the U.S."

UNFORTUNATELY for Mr. Cohen, this final twist only helps to emphasize the faulty even of his excuses. Let us have a look at the one opportunity he provides for judging the validity of his own alleged belief.

He exults in the "fact" that "American Jews overwhelmingly endorse (48 to 26 per cent) the view

that Palestinians have a right to a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza as long as it does not threaten Israel."

Now, if 48 per cent of his respondents hold this view, they obviously must reject the *contrary* view that "Israel should maintain permanent control over Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)." But when Cohen posed this position (the only Likud-oriented one in the series), only 29 per cent opposed it (against 42 per cent supporting it). What happened to the other 19 per cent?

To top it all, Cohen in yesterday's Post ("Who speaks for U.S. Jewry?") challenges Julius Berman's statement on the consensus in the Presidents' Conference on the major questions of Israeli policy. These views contradict absolutely Cohen's findings. He now has theutzpa to declare that it is his poll that represents "the plurality" of American Jews — when what he is in fact talking about is the plurality of 640 Jews whose names were plucked out of telephone books and who were then subjected to a series of tendentious questions by clever Mr. Cohen.

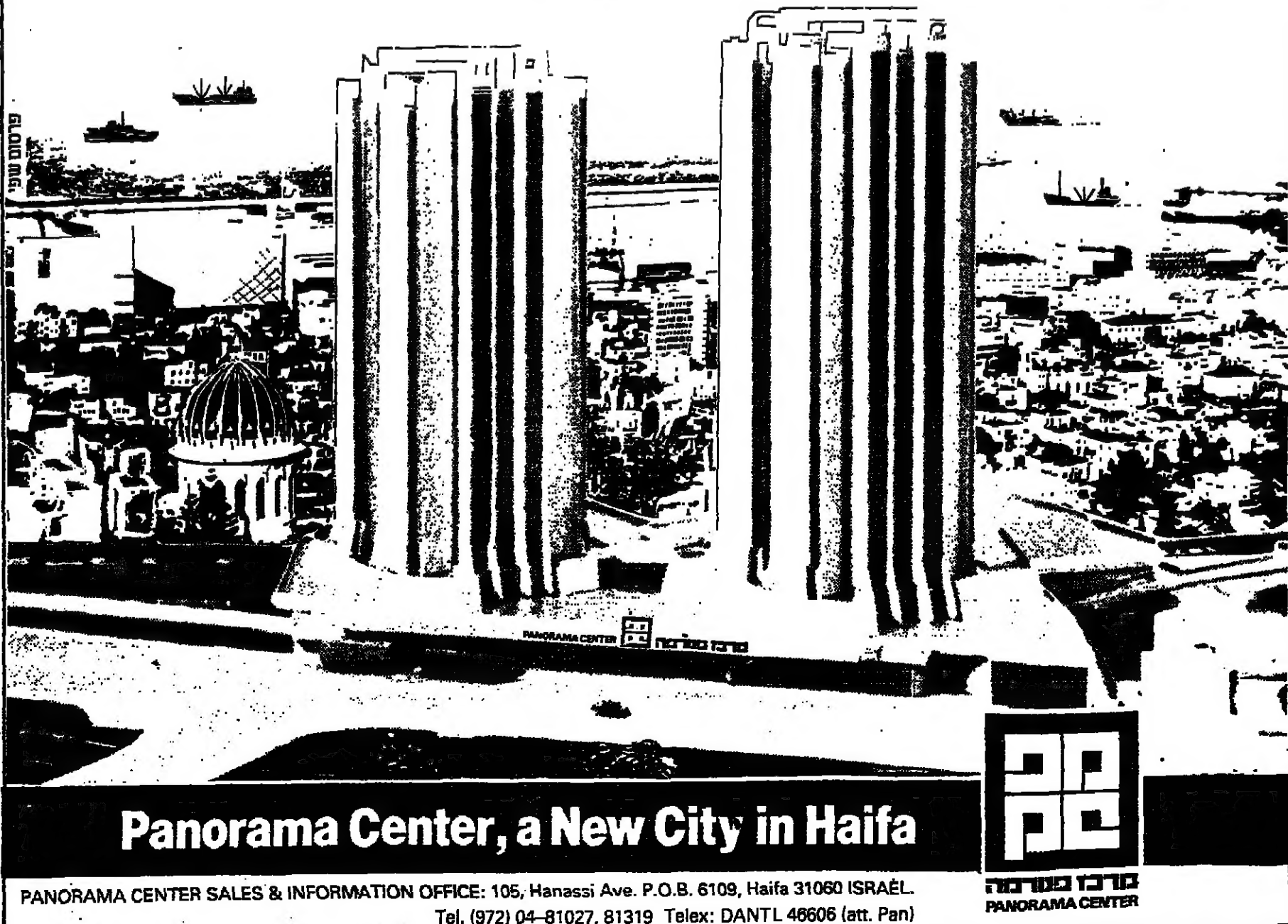
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THE DEATH of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov sent Sovietologists around the world into a flurry of speculation, a speculation that was by no means ended with the election of Konstantin Chernenko to the position.

Many commentators, among them the principal American Sovietologists, said that this appointment meant not only a triumph of the Old Guard. They were of the opinion that Chernenko, because of his age (at 72 he is the oldest man ever to be appointed to the position) and because of his lack of experience in foreign affairs and in actual government, would be more or less a figurehead, while the major decisions would be made by the 11-man Politburo.

Professor Galia Golan of the Hebrew University, however, told *The Jerusalem Post* that she feels that it would be a mistake to either underestimate the new chief of the Soviet Communist Party, or to dismiss him as a rubber stamp for the Politburo.

"One must keep in mind," Golan said, "that Chernenko, before Brezhnev's death, held considerable power. He certainly exerted

tremendous influence in party matters and in administration." Golan mentioned that while it is true that the appointment of Chernenko is a sort of stop-gap or interim measure, this does not necessarily mean that he will not be the leader of the party in every sense.

"There wasn't time in the past 15 months for the Young Guard to get things together enough to ensure the election of one of their number," she said. "But by electing Chernenko they at least made sure that the younger men still have a chance to rule in the not-too-distant future. Certainly the three strongest men of the younger group — Gorbachov, Vorotnikov and Aliev — still see themselves as potential future leaders."

AS TO WHAT is to be expected in the near future, Golan feels that one of Chernenko's first tasks will be to consolidate his position. "Just how far he will go in putting people he wants at the top, of course, depends just how strong he is," she said. "One must remember that at the same time a leader is doing this, he must also keep things running

Stiff opponent of change

Professor GALIA GOLAN warns against jumping to conclusions about the new head of the Soviet regime in an interview with D'VORA BEN SHAUL.

smoothly, keep the Army on his side and all that."

Professor Ilya Zenzov of the Institute for Research in Contemporary Society, however, felt that the failure of Andropov's clique to gain power could mean the end of them as a political force and that they may now be ousted one by one.

Golan also pointed out that we may be jumping to a conclusion when we designate all the Young Guard as Andropov's men. Certainly men like Aliev and Romanov, who were brought to the capital by

Andropov, are seen as his men, she says. But she adds that "a number of the younger men were already firmly entrenched before Andropov came to power. I think a man like Gorbachov sees himself as his own man."

But none of the Sovietologists seem to see any real changes in Soviet policy, although some mention has been made of the fact that in the past, Chernenko has outspokenly favoured détente with the Americans.

Most Sovietologists feel that



Konstantin Chernenko (UPI)

there might be a renewed effort towards détente, and if so that it would be the only thing that might bring about a loosening of the emigration restrictions for Soviet Jews. "Jews," commented Zenzov, "are a convertible currency and can be used."

On the question of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism inside the Soviet Union, Dr. Golan sees little change unless Chernenko decides to ease the Kremlin's stand to show that he is different from Andropov. "But the wave of anti-Semitism almost

certainly started under Brezhnev and was only increased during the past year. A softer line is possible but by no means certain," she said.

Certainly no one predicts a softening of Russia's attitude towards China. In fact, most commentators remarked that since Chernenko is the chief ideologist of the Communist Party then he might be expected to be even firmer than his predecessor, since in the Soviet-China dispute the matter is one of ideology. Andropov, who until 1967 was the person on the matter is one of ideology.

Andropov, who until 1967 was the person in charge of Soviet contacts with ruling Communist Parties outside the USSR took the issue of China as a personal interest. It seems to the Sovietologists that Chernenko might prove to be somewhat less interested.

IN MIDDLE EASTERN politics, no real change is predicted. Golan mentions that "according to their own views, which differ from ours, the Soviets see their policy vis-a-vis Israel as a moderate one."

Zenzov, however, thinks that in order to achieve a status of participant in any solution to the problems

of the Middle East, the USSR will ultimately have to renew diplomatic relations with Israel.

He believes they will ask for "a face-saving gesture on Israel's part, something that will let them say that they have the best interest of the Arabs at heart. I envision something like asking Israel to recognize Hussein as the representative of the Palestinians."

Golan, however, doesn't see any real change in this sphere.

The one thing everyone agrees on, however, is that now there will be a period of consolidation. "Some things may have more or less emphasis placed on them," says Golan. "For instance Andropov took on the issue of missiles in Europe as his own issue. Whether Chernenko will continue in the same vein or not remains to be seen."

The Sovietologists agree that there will certainly be no reforms in the Soviet Union at this time. Chernenko is a man with a reputation for ultra-conservative views and as being a stiff opponent of change, one of the old line party men who feel that the Soviet Union is not in need of any reforms, politically, economically or socially.

THE EUROPEAN conference train which left Helsinki station some nine years ago has now arrived in Stockholm after much huffing and puffing and lengthy intermediary stops in Belgrade and Madrid.

Disarmament, the stalking horse of the East and the world's foremost concern, is the subject of the conference in Stockholm. Human rights, the favourite of the West, and mankind's most underdeveloped area, have been relegated to a later conference in tranquil Bern.

The gap between the performance on arms control and human rights and the promise of the Helsinki Agreement is as wide as the gulf which separates East and West. The only progress achieved since the Helsinki summit is the widening recognition of the legitimacy of Soviet control over Eastern Europe which was the principal Soviet aim in signing the Final Act in Helsinki.

Soviet doctrine holds that the annexation of territories lost by a defeated aggressor state, is the legitimate right of the victor. The Soviet Union also regards military intervention in foreign countries as legitimate for the purpose of ensuring the security of its own territory or protecting a pro-Soviet regime. For these reasons it attacked Finland and occupied the Baltic States at the beginning of World

War II and, more recently, intervened militarily in Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

THIS DOCTRINE is strictly tailored to Soviet interests. In other areas where wars produced territorial changes, Moscow poses as the champion of the controversial principle of the "inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war."

In the Soviet book of diplomatic recipes, sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander. Double track diplomacy has always been standard equipment of Soviet foreign policy. However, not the inadmissibility of territorial change, but the inadmissibility of war, is the supreme law of nations, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Since its foundation, nearly four decades ago, the world organization has witnessed innumerable armed conflicts all over the globe without being able to prevent their outbreak or to bring them to a peaceful end.

The declared purpose of the Stockholm conference is to discuss measures designed to reduce the risk of war by miscalculation, accident or surprise. Its hoped-for by-product is the resumption of the stalled dialogue between East and West. A modest but commendable agenda at a time of growing international tensions and deepening rifts.

Compared with the diplomatic

Disturbing arms race

By GIDEON RAFAEL

dimness engulfing the Middle East, the European Security conference stands out like a beacon of light.

Unlike Europe which, with all its inherent differences and unresolved problems, applies to the conduct of its international affairs a sound measure of prudence and rationality, the countries of the Middle East handle their problems in a high state of emotion and with a low rate of responsibility. The characteristics of the region are: endemic instability; pervasive insecurity; interminable feuds, smouldering conflicts and open wars.

THE AREA'S abundant natural resources make it a prime target of outside power contestation. Oil is the Middle East's most coveted treasure. Arms are the most customary currency with which to pay for it.

Oil sales and arms purchases are linked in a process of not always profitable recycling. The spiralling oil prices entailed the rise of the price of arms. Yet the decrease of oil exports did in no way reduce the arms imports. While income from oil is dwindling, the expenditure for armaments is growing.

This discrepancy is felt most by states depending on outside financing of their arms purchases. Just one example: in 1974 Jordan negotiated with the United States the acquisition of a ground-to-air Hawk missile system, costing \$350 million. Saudi Arabia was willing to foot the bill. Two years later, when the price for the same weapons had risen to \$750 million, Saudi Arabia declined to pay the difference. Presumably, America was called upon to cover it.

Take the case of Israel. Surrounded for 35 years by a ring of hostile neighbours, which fortunately Egypt abandoned some time ago, Israel has to use about 30 per cent of its GNP for military purposes, to retain, if not quantitatively then at least qualitatively, a reasonable arms balance. Unable to fund by its own means the enormous costs, it seeks assistance from abroad, which it received primarily and generously from the U.S.

In short-range commercial terms the barter of oil for arms may not be bad business, but in the long run the purchasers of arms, producing oil or not, will accumulate debts higher even than the stockpiles of weapons they are hoarding. Whether the debt pile will collapse before the

stockpile blows up, is a matter of conjecture.

IN THIS long distance race Israel has not been a lonely runner, but a lonely voice. While straining its strength not to fall back, it has proposed time and again to put a stop to the mad race.

Already in May 1966 the then prime minister, Levi Eshkol, called upon the great powers to halt the arms race in the Middle East, and upon the states in the region to agree on measures of arms control "to be ensured by means of reciprocal supervision."

Three years earlier, foreign minister Golda Meir presented to the United Nations General Assembly a six-point plan for the reduction of tensions in the Middle East. It culminated in the proposal "to enter into negotiations with the object of achieving disarmament with mutual inspection, covering all types of weapons."

Twenty years later, after three more major Arab-Israeli wars, innumerable arms clashes and upheavals in the region, an endless savage war between Iraq and Iran, and after untold suffering in Lebanon, the arms race in the Middle East has assumed proportions in scale and intensity unique in the contemporary world.

According to the latest compilation made by the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies, the total of main ground battle weapons in the possession of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Israel is: 16,930 tanks; 21,300 armoured personnel carriers; 10,500 artillery pieces. In addition the Arab countries possess 5,250 ground-to-air missiles (figures for Israeli missile strength are unpublished). This arsenal amassed in one of the most volatile and inflammable areas of the globe is unmatched in its size and inconstancy by any concentration of arms anywhere in the world.

WHAT ARE THESE arms for? To defend the Middle East against outside aggression? The governments of the region have neither the intention of, nor the ability for, strategic cooperation.

To protect the oil resources against Soviet encroachment? If the Soviet government should decide to cut the Western oil jugular in the Persian Gulf, it will rather activate the terror gangs of Black September

than the divisions of the Red Army.

Or are all these arms meant to ensure the survival of domestically imperilled regimes? Neither AWAC planes nor ground-to-air missiles are made to detect or subdue rebellious movements which habitually arise from the ground and don't float in the air.

The only real purpose these arms are serving is the waging of local wars.

Obviously, success in the domain of disarmament is closely linked to progress achieved in the field of dismantling of conflicts. An unbridled arms race, however, not only frustrates the efforts of terminating armed conflicts, but intensifies existing ones and generates new ones.

Since most of the arms used in the Middle East are of foreign origin, it would be more promising to seek an agreement on the regulation of the arms trade between the exporting states than between the importing governments which refuse to reason together on any subject.

THE IDEA of curbing the arms race in the Middle East has been discussed at a number of occasions and in a variety of forums.

When Resolution 242 was tabled in 1967, its original version included an American provision for joint measures to regulate the arms trade in the Middle East. Surprisingly, the Soviet Union's draft resolution contained a similar paragraph. Both, however, were deleted from the final British draft, apparently due to the opposition of the Arab states which felt the need to replenish their arsenals depleted by their debacle in the Six Day War.

While intra-regional discussions on arms control are not a realistic proposition under the existing circumstances, it would be highly useful if the powers involved in the arms trade and aware of its incendiary nature were to seek an understanding on curbing the race.

It may appear odd but it is a fact that all agreements concluded between Israel and the Arab States, beginning with the armistice accords of 1949 up to the agreement with Lebanon in 1983, contain provisions on arms control, limitation of forces, demilitarized zones and third party supervision. They reflect a well-balanced mix of political perspicacity and military prudence.

The experience gained in the process of the implementation of

these measures, will be of great value in future negotiations on the settlement of Middle Eastern conflicts, whether they concern Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, or Iraq and Iran.

ALL THESE agreements between Israel and its neighbours include special provisions prohibiting "acts or threats of hostility or violence by any forces subject to the control of the contracting party or by any other forces stationed on its territory." In other words, these agreements outlaw the activities of terrorist organizations regardless of whether they call themselves guerrillas, Islamic warriors, Red Brigades or Palestine liberators. As past events have shown, their actions constitute not only a danger to their victims but a threat to the peace and security of the countries which harbour them.

In situations of tense confrontations such as exist today in the Middle East, the use of terrorist proxies can trigger full scale war by malice and miscalculations. Jordan, Syria and Egypt realized this in time and took appropriate measures to curb the terrorists' freedom of action. Lebanon, failing or incapable to act likewise, learnt to do it the hard and tragic way.

Sufficient common interest and reason exist for the states harmed by terrorist organizations operating from their territory and the states subjected to their attacks to consolidate and perfect their discreet cooperation, which they have been practising at various times.

IF THERE is one issue in the Middle East which calls for collective wisdom and action, it is the danger of the nuclearization of its conflicts. Neither conventional strategy nor outworn policies can master it.

At various times Israel has proposed to make the Middle East nuclear-free zone. Egypt, supported by Israel, has taken in recent years a commendable international initiative in the United Nations by introducing a specific resolution on this subject. It is the first and so far the only joint Egyptian-Israeli Resolution.

Normal procedure for its implementation would be the convening of a regional conference; but realities as they are in the Middle East, exclude such a step for the time being. The preparatory work must therefore be done within a less formal and rigid framework.

Probably the most effective way to get the project under way might be to bring scholars, scientists and diplomats from the Middle East together with experts in the field of nuclear arms control. They might meet under the auspices of a renowned academic institution.

The proverbial Middle Eastern powder-keg is brim-full with political and military dynamite and bristling with time-fuses. Even if at present the prospects to deplete and defuse it seem dim, responsible governments should at least support actions designed to reduce the risk of its explosion.

The writer is a former director-general of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

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POET NATAN YONATAN has been elected chairman of the Hebrew Writers' Association, and the first thing he wants to do is make sure everyone knows the organization exists.

That means getting coverage in the media and "half an hour of TV is worth everything else put together." As a member of the Broadcasting Authority, please, he'll use whatever elbow he can. He wants the public to attend readings and discussions, he wants more writers to speak to students in high school and cultivate the audience of the future.

But more than anything, he wants writers to know that the organization exists. In the past, he admits, it has had a "schlemiel" image. He finds something reminiscent of the Diaspora even in the title of the organization — *Yonatan*, like Agudas Yisrael. He would prefer the more modern word *Yegon*, usually translated as "organization."

As a writer, he believes there is much in a name, as chairman of the organization, he believes there is more to be said for *Yegon*. The problem has been that the writers most active in the group have not been the country's best. A chicken-and-egg situation: Because of the small-town image, the best writers have stayed away from the group's activities; if they lent support, the image would improve.

The group image is only slightly greater than the sum of its parts. The doubts individual writers have about their centrality to the values of Israeli society are reinforced by the low rates they're paid on royalties and translations. One of the association's jobs is to update those rates, but they remain "peanuts," says Yonatan, using the English word.

"I don't fool myself into thinking that we can change the self-image of writers with any organized program," he says. The feeling is, states he, related to the increasing materialism of Israeli culture. But Yonatan will do what he can to put

writers who command authority into top positions within the association, perhaps set up an agency within the organization to arrange speaking engagements; lobby for representation of writers in official delegations to foreign countries — alongside the military men and agricultural and industrial experts. And he promises a fight with publishers to improve writers' pay.

That won't be easy at a time when general book sales have dropped by 30 per cent, with an even greater decrease in sales of original works. He has some insight into the problem not only as the author of 16 books of poetry. He is also an editor at Sifriat Hapoalim, the publishing house of the leftist Hashomer Hatzair movement. There he is responsible for prose publications, which means that about one-fourth of the house's titles cross his desk.

YONATAN, sitting at that desk during the interview, is lean, younger-looking than his 60 years, with grey hair thick enough to share with a dozen balding colleagues. (He's a kibbutznik, after all — a member of Sifriat.)

Our conversation is interrupted occasionally for questions from his staff about typewriters and royalties: for instance, are royalties paid to the Soviet Union for translations of Hebrew books, even if the Soviets don't often honour the international copyright agreement? (His answer is yes, though it turns out that the book in question is old enough to be beyond the statute of limitations.)

His identification with Hashomer Hatzair brings up the question of politics and the writer. "Writers must see themselves in opposition to politicians, though not necessarily in opposition," he says. They are needed as a spiritual, humanistic counterweight. As individuals, they have civil obligations, just as they have pay taxes, he says. As individuals, they may be politically active. But writing must be free of ideological pressures, subject only to literary criteria. His example:

Putting out the word

Post NATAN YONATAN, new head of the Hebrew Writers Association, faces a PR problem. MARSHA POMERANTZ reports.



Baltzar was a monarchist, but he wrote about people in a way that inspired Marx. (I didn't ask if he would be as benign about a socialist writer whose work inspired a monarchist.)

If writers are to promote humanist values in society, Yonatan sees a second major task before him: to strengthen contacts with Arab writers in Israel. Their status was the subject of a controversy which nearly broke up the Hebrew Writers Association a few years ago.

Some Hebrew writers wanted Arabs to be included on an equal basis in the organization, which would then change its name to the

Israeli Writers Association. Yonatan says that he and many of the "younger generation" were in favour, but there was vehement opposition.

WHEN THE MOTION didn't pass, some of those who had supported it — Menahem Peri, Yoram Kaniuk, Gabriel Moked are the ones he names — broke off and founded a separate writers' association. Within a couple of months it dispersed, he says, and some of the renegades returned to the fold. Others remained outside.

"The problem was that no Arab writers were involved," he says. "If

they had been, maybe something would have developed. As it was, the move was mainly a demonstration of protest."

Since then, a number of separate writers' associations have been set up — for those writing in English, Russian, Yiddish, and other languages, as well as Arabic. They are affiliated with the Hebrew Writers Association under the Federation of Writers in Israel, headed by Ben-Zion Tomer.

Yonatan says he isn't yet up to date on the activities of the Arabic Writers Association, but is convinced that "we have to do much more to increase contact." The for-

mal organizational framework or the name of the group is less important than the establishment of the public presence of Arab writers, who of course "have a more significant influence on the future of the country than Yiddish writers, English writers or any other group."

Problems exist among the Arab writers themselves. "There are few real Arab writers in the country," Yonatan says. "Most of them are journalists who publish a poem here and there. And those real writers that exist are divided among themselves for political reasons." Some belong to Rakah, the Communist Party, or are "more extreme." Arab writers who want to cooperate with Hebrew writers face accusations of collaboration.

And even with those Arabs who are willing to participate, what can be the nature of the dialogue when most Hebrew writers don't know Arabic? Meetings must be conducted in Hebrew, and the Arabic work translated. "Despite that — or because of it," says Yonatan, he is determined to establish contact. He has no specific plan yet, but one thing he has in mind is the publication of a joint anthology.

WHEN HE ISN'T worrying about the status of the writer and relationships between Arabs and Jews in the field, Yonatan will have enough to keep him amused in the daily running of the operation. The association, with offices and meeting rooms at Beit Hasofer in Tel Aviv's Rehov Kaplan, publishes *Maznaim*, a monthly literary magazine edited by Yehor Reich and Haim Pessah, and three series of books under its own imprint. It maintains a manuscript archive of 200 years' worth of Hebrew writing.

From its limited resources the association offers financial aid to writers in need; it has a professional committee to protect legal rights; and it runs a regular schedule of readings and discussions. All this with "five or six" salaried employees and the rest, volunteers.

Most of its budget comes from the Ministry of Education and Culture, and about the impending government budget cuts Yonatan, like other administrators in the arts, says: "It's hard to imagine their giving less." Some funds come from the municipality, some from membership fees; a committee of friends of the association supports special projects. Yonatan is looking for other funding from private donors and corporations.

Even if the organization itself isn't hit by the budget squeeze — and that seems unlikely — the individual members are in a precarious position. The steep drop in book sales obviously affects the number of their books which will be published. Very few writers support themselves on royalties in any case, but many of them make a living from the publishing industry — as translators, proofreaders, editors.

Yonatan hopes to encourage book sales by reviving a proposed "libraries law" which got tied up in the Knesset after its first reading. The law would require the nations 1,000 libraries to buy every Hebrew book published. In the past, libraries, through their central purchasing department, could be relied on to order 700 copies; now the number has dropped to 200, sometimes only 50. Each publisher could bring out three or four more titles a year if the central library purchase were guaranteed.

Who supports central library purchase? The Education Ministry.

This month Yonatan will be awarded the prestigious Brenner Prize for Literature, which suggests one inevitable last question: How does Yonatan the writer find time to write? With his increasing public functions it's more difficult, he admits. But he has always worked, apart from writing — whether in construction, teaching or editing. Sometimes he writes late at night. He takes a week or a month off "here and there." And his weekends — he is adamant — are for nothing else.

Grand old man



By JUDY SINGER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

FORMER MINISTER MK and Histadrut leader Yitzhak Ben-Aharon is one of the few Israeli personalities who seem to grow in public esteem the longer they are in retirement.

Now 72, working as a wood-burning cartridge sorter at Givat Haim, the kibbutz he helped found, he is profiled in an Israeli TV documentary, *Ben-Aharon: Facing a New Direction*, which will be screened next Sunday. It was directed by Yehuda Kaveh, produced by Maya Dukler, and edited by Esther Levine. Radio compere Yitzhak Roeh provides the narration.

Black-and-white film from TV interviews in the Sixties and Seventies were pulled to show Ben-Aharon at the height of power. Colour interviews as he returns to sites of labour confrontation, like Ashdod port, are shown to portray the Ben-Aharon of today. Yet, although the TV reporters planted in front of Ben-Aharon clearly age during this time span, he seems not to have changed at all.

The things he says — about the Labour Party, the territories,

socialism, and the country in general — also have not changed very much. Ben-Aharon said way back in the Sixties that Labour's influence and moral power were skidding.

An article he wrote in *Ha'aretz* in 1964 that caused a sensation around the country is recalled. In it, Ben-Aharon called on the left-wing elements in the country to unite. Mapai and Mapam did join to form the Alignment, but Ben-Aharon remained outside. In 1969, he was suddenly called to serve as the third general of the Histadrut, where he remained until 1973.

BEN-AHARON's labour activism began in 1928 — the year he came on alive from Kamania. Working for the Jewish National Fund to clear the bog of Nahal Kishon, he led a strike of pioneers protesting against their working conditions.

Ben-Aharon, as secretary-general of the labour federation, angered his party colleagues when he backed a strike of Ashdod port workers in 1970. Shots of that confrontation, which made top headlines for many weeks, are shown in the documentary. Ben-Aharon returns to the port and meets local worker activist Yehoshua Peretz, whom he backed during the port crisis.

Nearly an octogenarian, the eagle-eyed Ben-Aharon doesn't admit, at the end of the film, to being at the end of his life's path.

The documentary concludes with a personal self-assessment, in which he admits his desire to continue to contribute to the solution of Israel's problems. But, he says sadly, "there is no anvil on which one can lie in order that the hammer can hit you."

More than ten years out of power, Ben-Aharon is still lively and controversial, and shows on film some of the combativeness he demonstrated as a main speaker at the "Peace Now" demonstration in Jerusalem marking the anniversary of the death of Emil Grunzweig.

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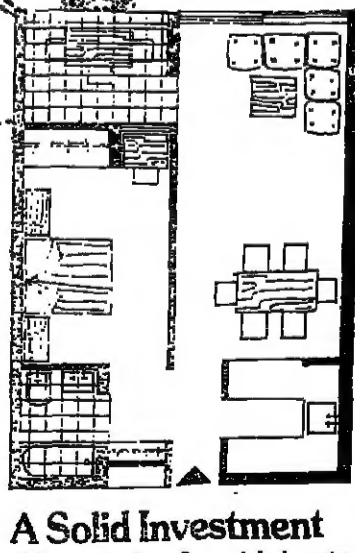
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At Mediterranean Towers you'll find a small shopping center, complete with mini-market, coffee shop, beauty salon and hair-dresser. Prepare your meals in your apartment or if you prefer, enjoy first class dining in our kosher restaurant. Also for your convenience are underground parking, storage facilities and an automatic laundry... plus our full time medical staff which can provide for all of your needs.



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ALFA ROMEO ALFETTA 1.6, 1979, 93,000 km. for sale, excellent condition, \$7,200, 052-441570, Kfar Sava.

Treasure on Fifth Avenue

By LEILA MUSTACHI / Special to The Jerusalem Post

IF YOU'RE an Alaskan in need of a recipe, or a Yiddish-speaking fan in search of *Oygeveht* (Eremiten) *Yan Kamen Doyl*, or someone longing to see your grandfather's face smiling from an old snapshot taken on a street in his home town of Dobromil, where do you go?

You could try the same place Eliezer Ben-Yehuda did when he needed a quiet place to work on his dictionary, or where Bob Dylan went to find a lyric — the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library. And you would be one of 11,000 people who annually make use of the facilities in the building behind Patience and Fortitude, the two stone lions who guard the treasure on Fifth Avenue.

One cold and snowy evening early in January, visitors filled the Trustees' Room to hear a lecture by Dr. Leonard Gold, on the history, collections and services of the Jewish Division, which he heads.

Thanks to a grant of \$300,000 from the estate of Jacob Perlow, the largest gift in the division's 86-year history, funds are now available not only for new acquisitions but for public activities, and this was the first such event.

ALBANY BRASS ENSEMBLE — Graham Ashton, Paul Archibald, trumpet; James Scott, David Wilson, trombone; James Gifford, tuba (YMCA Auditorium, Jerusalem, February 12); Sir Emmanuelle Dancer (arr. Ashton); F.M. Davies; Brass Quintet (1983); Nicki Jackson; A. Pagan; D. Miller (arr. Ashton); V. Ewald; Symphony in D flat; M. Arnold; Brass Quintet (1983). Sponsored by the British Council.

FOR ONCE, expectations raised by advance publicity were not only fulfilled but surpassed. The five players of the Albany Brass Ensemble perform feats of perfection in precision, intonation, tonal balance and, especially, in virtuosic brilliance.

At times, one was even able to forget the unfriendly cold and the terrible draught in the auditorium. The Renaissance dances that opened the programme were sheer pleasure in their complicated simplicity and naive sophistication (at least, that is how it now sounds to our ears).

But then we had to pay homage to a contemporary English composer, Peter Maxwell Davies (b. 1922), who in half an hour made a lot of noise (bringing to mind a traffic snarl in Trafalgar Square) without giving us a moment of respite or relaxation. He actually started off with some interesting sound combinations, but soon got lost in intellectual exercises to prove his ingenuity.

Spellbound, the audience heard about and saw slides of a tiny fraction of the collection. There are 200,000 books, periodicals, microfilms and microfiche here in every language including Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and Judeo-Italian; a recent addition was a Japanese directory of the Jews of Shanghai during the World War II occupation.

Americans who want to know how many Jews there are in Santa Fe, New Mexico, or whether or not they are eligible for Social Security benefits when the only birthdate they have is the second night of Passover 1920, have found their answers here. And so have researchers and scholars from all over the world who find items in the library's catalogue and order fac-

similes through the photographic service. THE LIBRARY was first housed in what is now the Public Theatre on Lafayette Street near the Lower East Side, and the first director, Abraham S. Freidus, used a \$10,000 grant from Jacob Schiff to pull together 2,000 volumes of Jewish interest. The Mandelstam collection, brought to America by A.M. Bank, added another 2,000 books, and 500 volumes were collected from Amsterdam. By 1903, the library rivalled the great Judaica collections of Europe.

Freidus was paid \$50 a month and disdained an offered raise: "I am a librarian," he replied haughtily. He organized a classification system that is still in use. And he was always referred to simply as

Freidus. "One would no more think of putting 'Mr.' in front of his name than one would say Mr. Maimonides," noted Bertha Kohut in her book *As We Knew Them*.

It was said of Freidus that he had read every single book in the Jewish Division. When a little boy asked him "the worst possible question I could have," "Where is the catalogue?" the outraged answer was, "And what am I? Dead?"

YOU CAN GO from the sublime — a *Shulchan Aruch* published by Bragadini, the great Venetian printer, in 1565 — to the slightly ridiculous — "Paddle Your Own Canoe," an uplifting story published by Horatio Alger in *Young Israel* in 1871; from a book on raising and trading horses, complete with Hebrew glossary, to a Hebrew book on the New World and the Jews who went to live there, printed in Italy in 1586 (worth a look if only to see the map of South America and the Caribbean islands).

The inventory goes on and on. There is more of value in this one library division than in all the elegant shops and corporate offices that also have exclusive Fifth Avenue addresses. What's more, it's completely free.

getting lost in bloodless, bodiless dynamics. On the other hand, this approach made the few solo contributions of the woodwinds practically inaudible, pushing the orchestra's role, so insignificant with Chopin anyway, even further into the background. That may have been just as well, as Moshe Alzmon directed with such graceful movements that these indecisive indications could not help the orchestra to avoid sounding quite wishy-washy.

Hindemith's symphony has so much that is dynamic in it that things propelled themselves more satisfactorily, especially as the orchestra was in excellent form and gave a very good account of itself, leaving the audience with a most stimulating impression.

Surpassing expectations

MUSIC/Yohanan Boellum

The other English contribution — Malcolm Arnold's Brass Quintet, which he wrote in 1960 at the age of 39 — applies less learning and a little more musical content. Needless to say, the five artists played the pieces with complete identification and commitment. For ordinary mortals, there was an arrangement of Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor, which produced some fantastic organ sound and incredible technical agility, besides a very musical performance.

All I could find out about Victor Ewald was that he was born in St. Petersburg, in 1860, and was a professor of engineering at the St. Petersburg Technical Academy. His symphony is epigonal, Schumann, unpretentious, but serving as a marvelous vehicle for the ensemble to display their wizardry.

The finale from Rossini's *Wilhelm Tell* Overture, played as an encore, brought down the house.

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — Moshe Alzmon, conductor; Peter Frankl, piano (Jerusalem Theatre, February 14); Yitzhak Barzani; "Out of the Depths" (premiere); Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2, opus 21; Hindemith: "Matthäus, the Painter," Symphony.

THIS WAS the first presentation since 1967 of an orchestra work by Yitzhak Barzani on the concert stage (at least, in Jerusalem). Basing his work on Psalm 130, the composer indicates that he tried to "express in sound the eternal circle of struggle, despair and hope which is within every human being who struggles with his destiny."

Born in Austria in 1922, Barzani has lived here since 1939 and has written symphonies and chamber music. As he refrains from joining the avant garde, he is not among prize-winning composers in Israel, and this new composition (written in 1978-79) also does not enter unexplored ground.

It is conceived for string orchestra, formed in three parts played without interruption or audible separation. His language is tradition-bound, slightly extended into rumbling sounds in the lower instruments (to symbolize depth?), but is otherwise easily acceptable at first hearing. The performance seemed to fulfill all demands of the score.

Peter Frankl, an excellent technician and a sensitive musician, rendered the solo in the Second Piano Concerto by Chopin without over-romanticizing its content or

Flamenco gypsy



By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Berlin, then back to France to appear at the Barcelona Club.

An evening Olier remembers well, he was playing in a little Paris square when among the crowd gathering around him, he noticed two "very respectable" people staring at him intensely. Then the woman went up to him and began talking. But Olier, who didn't understand French, continued playing, afraid of losing his audience.

The "respectable" couple, it turned out, were Francois Mitterrand (then still in opposition) and his wife, Danielle. She had invited Olier to play at a cocktail party and asked him whether he needed any help.

"What an opportunity to miss!" laments Olier, who can now laugh at the incident. "I thought they were regular *auditeurs*, like the ones who always come and bother me."

Another time, he recalls, a gypsy from the South of France approached him and suggested they play together. Glad of the company, Olier agreed, little knowing that while the two were making music on

street corners and in cafes, his new partner's little boy was picking the audience's pockets. The man was eventually arrested, and Olier later learned that he used to beat up any musician who refused to play with him, for he was a poor player and couldn't attract a crowd by himself. "But he respected me," said Olier, "because I played flamenco."

Everywhere he went, people mistook Olier, with his colourful bandana, for a Spanish gypsy. Music critics both in Europe and Israel hailed him as a creator and performer of international importance.

TWO AND A HALF years ago, Olier returned to Israel and formed a group called *Ballad to Gypsies*, which performs all over the country.

Olier's playing gets his audience to loosen up and warm to the passionate sounds. "Soldiers, who expect me to play rock or pop music or sing something, are my criterion for success," says the guitarist, who spends his reserve duty playing for the military. "At first they're disappointed when I don't start singing — but after a few pieces they get excited, and in the end they don't let me get off the stage."

Impresario Giora Naor, who sensed immediately that Olier was an artist of international standing, organized a solo performance and an album of eight flamenco styles composed by Olier. Guest of honour at the gala night was the Spanish Consul of East Jerusalem, who was amazed that Israel should have such an artist. Popular radio programmes have begun adopting Olier's compositions and Naor will market Olier's album abroad, as well as in Israel.

Now married and a father of two, Olier is currently thinking of a tour abroad. It is not at all clear whether he will stay in Israel long. His kind of music needs an international stage, such as Paris. So, if you're into having an unusual experience, hurry up and go to one of Olier's shows before it's too late.

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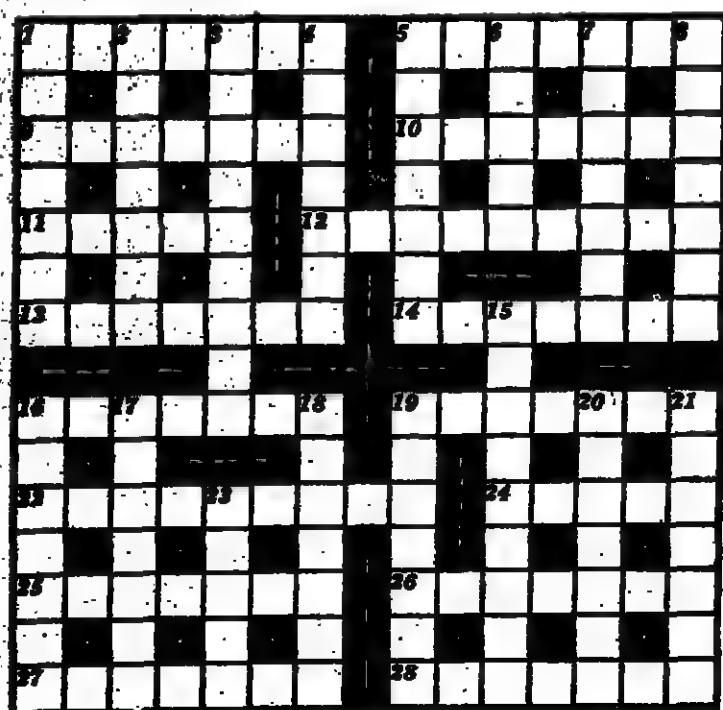
TWO-IN-ONE CROSSWORD

Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle.

Cryptic

- ACROSS**
- Military chief must change everyone's head-dress (7)
 - His plate put on its side (7)
 - His one lot of corpses (7)
 - These animals to take a big dog around the house! (7)
 - The Romans knocked them gold up in East Anglia, where they lived (5)
 - An enemy of this teacher! (7)
 - A number of academics help hold the body together (7)
 - Makes a periodic appearance on the tablet (7)
 - To gold sovereigns, added other metal coins so described (7)
 - We hear, fort got damaged in the battle (7)
 - Get such title-fighters to win all the time (9)
 - Adores a cat from a lot of bread (5)
 - Name it, then number the entries in a telephone directory (7)
 - In the main, Britain is narrow and prejudiced (7)
 - Bell along the assembly line! (7)
 - Your Honour, she wanted never to be under sentence of death (7)

- DOWN**
- Uses rear-wheel drive transporter to move it forward a couple of feet (7)
 - Table knives are part of his equipment (7)
 - All the same, we think such a verdict is inevitable (9)
 - Drunk up the poison! (7)
 - Just after the morning show (7)
 - Speakman getting over a fall (5)
 - Not due to have one's wage payment made before the proper time (7)
 - Cut dead (7)
 - Made the team, even despite his opponents (9)
 - and having had enough, runs to dismiss the remaining batsmen (7)
 - Made his mark as a stock breeder (7)
 - Puts up sword points and goes off a bit (7)
 - This well may bring you what you want (7)
 - Give other people the confidence, to do this (7)

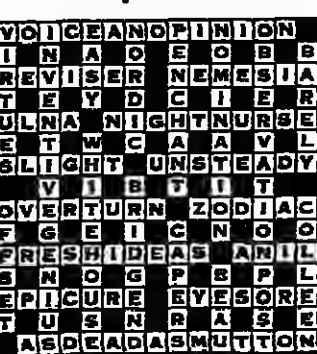


- Here, nothing can grow accustomed to the rain. Indeed not! (7)
- It's a bit crusty, thing cooked for Central European leaders (5)
- Throw (5)
- Neckwear (7)
- Slim (7)
- Receiving from another (9)
- Eg, mauled by a dog (7)
- Archives (7)
- Sort of cat (7)
- Most profound (7)
- Hold in contempt (7)
- Cleans river-bottom (7)
- Deduce from the facts (5)

'Quickie'

- ACROSS**
- Boxer, etc (7)
 - Has influence on (7)
 - Type of coffee (7)
 - Common soldier (7)
 - Similar (5)
 - Part of an army (4-5)
 - A country (7)
 - Common letter opening (4, 5)
 - Industrial action (7)
 - Broke a cipher (7)
 - Protect against illness (9)
 - Sticky substance (5)
 - Animal (7)
 - Running a newspaper (7)
 - Merit (7)
 - Female cat (7)

- DOWN**
- Warship (7)
 - Fighting for breath (7)
 - Company symbol (5-4)
 - Left work permanently (7)
 - Clap (7)



Quick Solution
ACROSS: 7 Brakes, 8 Aweigh, 10 Gobbler, 11 Liege, 12 Dix, 13 Scoop, 14 Handy, 15 Door, 22 Tobia, 23 Lat, 24 Casual, 25 Pirate, DOWN: 1 Abigail, 2 Rambler, 3 Reply, 4 Swallow, 5 Miter, 6 Chess, 7 Coccyz, 8 Carravan, 9 Topical, 10 Grieved, 11 Stock, 20 Abuse, 21 Stain.

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BANK SHARES may rise and fall. Mins of Fin come and go, but the video is here to stay. It's about the only thing we've left to hold on to in these uncertain times. And hold on we do. This, after all, is the first time in the history of human civilization that a man can watch blue movies in the bosom of his family. No wonder they're breeding like mushrooms today. The movies, I mean.

Here's how it works. The little Israeli traveller buys himself some cassettes abroad, carefully reads where it says it's illegal to copy them, copies them anyway, and rents them out to all and sundry for solid cash, not before carefully writing on the box that it's illegal to copy them. And so they go forth and multiply and cover the face of the earth.

Felix Selig from next door has copied 183 rented movies to date. "Good Lord, Felix," I said when he told me about it, "you'll never have time to watch them all!" "No," Felix admitted, "I don't even like most of them. I just like to copy them."

Because it's illegal, no doubt. And so easy, too. You just link up your second video to your first and leave them to it, each copying the other's stuff while you read the papers or take a nap.

Except for such special occasions as last Friday, when my phone went. "Listen," said Felix all in a twitter, "I got hold of a 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' original, and I'm asking some people over tomorrow for the copying. Want to come?"

Did I! A wave of nostalgia swept over me at mere mention of the Cat, that tremendous psychological drama by Tennessee Williams, with Paul Newman in the male star part, and the great Elizabeth Taylor herself on the hot tin roof. I must have been seven when I first saw it, and wept like a child.

CHIN WAG

By EPHRAIM KISHON

WE WERE THERE in force, Saturday night in the Seligs' living room: Felix and Erna, two video sets, and half the neighbourhood. Felix flicked the switch, and there was Big Daddy, reading Paul Newman the Riot Act. Then Liz the divine appeared and took our breath away.

"How old would she be now?" asked a voice in the darkness.

"Wrong side of 50," the experts told him. "Married to some fool senator or other."

"Na, not any more. She's going round with this Mexican lawyer now. Her eighth husband he'll be, poor devil."

"Her seventh."

The front row made a quick tally: Hilton the Younger, Henry Ford III, Chevrolet the Elder, Mike Todd the producer, Eddie Fisher, Richard Burton, Frank Sinatra, the Fool Senator, Richard Burton again, and now the Mexican. Ten in all. Sinatra was doubtful though, and Burton didn't count the second time round.

"All right," the opposition conceded, "so eight, so who cares anyway?"

On the screen, meanwhile, Liz was throwing a fit at Newman, whose libido had gone on the blink. "Notice?" observed Felix from in back. "They never shoot Liz in profile on account of her double chin."

"Double chin? It's a proper dewlap."

"Dewlap is only used for cattle," came the voice of a purist.

"Tisn't!"

"Tis!"

Liz, too, was having a passionate argument with someone. With her sister-in-law, it turned out, who had numerous offspring. Paul Newman, on the other hand, had been talking to himself for the past ten minutes. "Dewlap-dewlap-dewlap," muttered Felix, leafing through the dictionary. "Got it. A hanging fold of skin, blah-blah-blah — there! Especially of a bovine animal."

"See?" said the purist. "I told you."

"What do you mean I told you?" cried 'Tisn't. "The man says especially, not only."

HERE the discussion was put an end to by Liz herself, who returned in full glory to the screen. In profile!

"Ah, well," said one of the wives, sounding a bit disappointed, "it's an ancient movie, that's why she has no double chin yet."

"She does too," her loyal husband insisted. "Don't you see how she keeps her face tilted up all the time to conceal it?"

We all riveted our eyes on the screen now, trying to catch Liz off guard. In the end it was blue-eyed Paul who caught her off guard, and promptly proceeded to rape her. Liz kept a low profile throughout.

"There's this face-lift place in Boston," Erna said rather wistfully, "where they do you a whole new chin. Costs the earth, though."

"Na," someone objected from the middle row, "they can't do

chins. I know it for a fact."

"Oh yeah? Then how come Ava Gardner had hers done?"

"When?"

Someone mentioned Abba Eban. One felt rather than saw that everyone was furtively probing his chin in the darkness.

"What the hell," I broke the silence at last. "You people have done nothing for the past hour but yack about Liz Taylor's double chin. Let me tell you that as far as I'm concerned, it's not half so bad as her fat legs."

"Tis, Mrs. 'Tisn't" informed me. "She can always hide her legs in pants, but a chin's there for all to see."

"Only in profile."

"Still."

SOMEONE RECALLED that Debbie Reynolds, who'd had Eddie Fisher before Liz, didn't have such glorious legs either. She was living with this sales agent nowadays, a Jew by his nose. The screen showed Big Daddy calling on us all to unite behind the government to save our economy.

"He ought to shave off that moustache, Shamir," someone remarked, and we realized suddenly that the cat had got off the tin roof, and the set had switched itself automatically to the late night news. Felix returned the cat original to its box, and wrote on his own virgin copy: "Double Chin" by Tennessee Williams.

We all got up to go. "Ah, those old movies," we said to each other in parting, "they don't make them like that any more."

At home I inspected myself in the mirror from the side. Bad, I ought to cut down on the calories, I'm getting a belly. Only in profile, but still. Video. All it does is spoil your mood. I'll never forgive Aridor.

Translated by Miriam Arad by arrangement with Ma'ariv.

YEAH! It's like Texas around here! Bang-bang! Every day there's something happening. Yesterday, the Jews suddenly started shooting at everything in sight. Who knows what made them do it? Musa said they were trying to be clever again. He said that first one Jewish soldier threw this concussion grenade sneaky-like up an alley where there wasn't anybody, and when it went off, a jeep with some other Jews showed up very quick and they started shooting into the air and at cars. Musa saw the whole thing, and he said they did it just to keep us scared.

But I don't believe that. I believe they do things like that because they're scared of us. Yeah! They're scared of us sons of Sidon! Have you seen how they travel in convoys with their flak jackets and helmets on and their guns cocked? Have you seen the look in their eyes? Have you seen their strongpoints along the road with the dirt piled up so high around that all you can see is a machine gun and their flag? We're not scared of them. They're scared

Son of Sidon

By A.E. NORDEN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

of us, I tell you. We're making them hysterical!

Bang-bang! Texas! It's great! Just think of it — the Jewish army with all its tanks and everything is scared of us! But if you think about it for a minute, it makes sense. We're men, we sons of Sidon. We're not like those Palestinian sons of pimps in Ein Hilwe, or those sons of pimps who joined up with Sa'ad Haddad — good thing he's gone. We're showing the Jews that we're men. We'll make it hotter and hotter for them the longer they stick around. We'll show them that Sidon's a

sweet little town, all right!

You know what one of their big people told us? He said, "Hassle us, and we'll hassle you." Now that wasn't very clever, was it? What he meant was, if one of our boys shoots a Jew, they'll shut the A-wall bridges and rip down some orchards. The Jews do that all the time now. But that only makes the sons of Sidon madder and braver. The Jews must really be hysterical if they can't understand that. Sweet Sidon must really have mixed them up. Well, they haven't seen anything yet. This place is going to get more like Texas every day. It's going to get more like the movies every day, until the Jews have a bellyful and get out.

And then, Amin Jemayel just better not try and move in to take their place. We've shown the Jews that Sidon isn't Tel Aviv, and we'll show Sheikh Amin that Sidon isn't Jounieh either.

We're going to run this town for ourselves from now on.

We sons of Sidon.

Backlog boost

still at it and has sent in yet another batch of cheques on behalf of the Beth Tfiloh congregation, whose total this year stands at \$2,800.90. If Mrs. Davidson has her way, the books won't be closed until the total reaches \$3,000.

New contributions to both The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund and "For-sake Me Not" are listed below.

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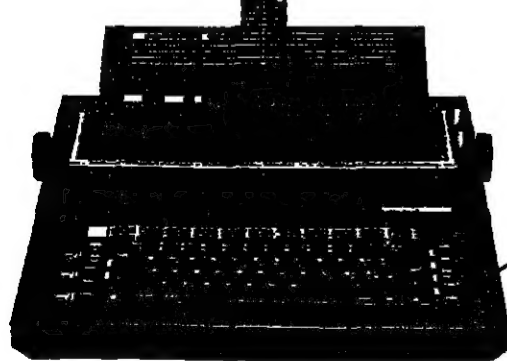
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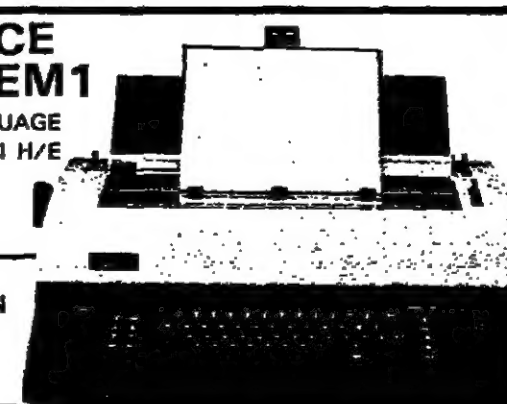
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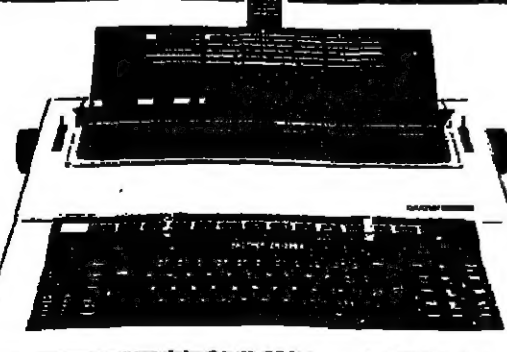
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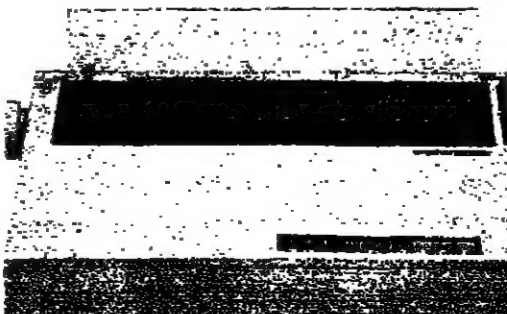
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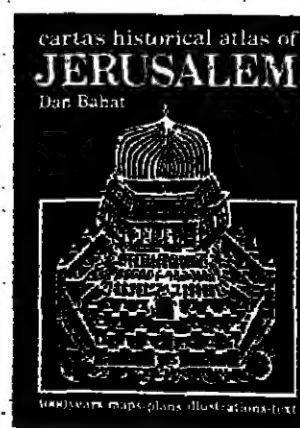
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Market mixed as profits are taken

TEL AVIV. — The tidal wave of buying which swept through the market this week began to subside yesterday. The market turned mixed and there was a strong undercurrent of profit-taking, which forced the General Share Index down by 2.19 per cent. If commercial banks are excluded, and it was the "arrangement" shares which came under selling pressure, then the index fell by only 1.59 per cent. The "arrangement" shares account for more than half of all the trading. Nevertheless, there was plenty of buying, especially of the smaller companies. A full 134 shares rose by five per cent or more (of which 32 were "buyers only").

On the previous day 330 shares rose by five per cent or more — of which 115 were "buyers only".

The turnover in shares was 10.9 million, considerably more than the 9.6m. of Wednesday, and even more than the 10.2m. of Tuesday.

According to financial circles, the "special" day should come early next week, perhaps on Sunday. Then, if buyers outpace sellers, the market should be in for a steady rise. And these circles continue to point out that there are still bargains on the market. The recent spate of buying indicates, however, that

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By MACABEE DEAN

there is much more indiscriminate buying than selective.

One banker warned the public not to "rush in like a madman to buy and then rush out in a frenzy to sell. A person who buys wisely can still make money, both in the short and in the long-range; a person who follows tips will be on the losing side."

Among the "arrangement" shares, IDB was firm, despite offers to sell, but Union Bank lost 1.9 per cent. Discount lost one per cent; Mizrahi lost two per cent; Hapoalim fell by 1.2 per cent; Leumi lost 0.7 per cent; and General lost one per cent. Another "arrangement" share, Finance and Trade, was not traded since it published its financial statements — the first of the "arrangement" banks to do so. It showed a real profit of 1510m. Its unadjusted profit rose by 480 per cent, to 15574m.

What is remarkable here is that

all the "arrangement" banks are expected to lose money this year. Financial circles point out that "although we hope Finance and Trade is a harbinger of good tidings, we fear that is not."

Of the banks which are not the part of the "arrangement," First International and FIBI were firm, despite large sell orders. Maritime and North American continued to rise, but the biggest rise was chalked up by Danot 1, an enormous 29.6 per cent, while Danot 4 rose by 14.3 per cent.

Although plenty of shares rose by ten or more per cent, it was the options which again stole the show. Special mention should be made of the Delta Galil options, which the previous day rose by a phenomenal 217 per cent. Well, yesterday, they fell by 43.2 per cent. But anyone who bought them earlier this week and sold yesterday still hit the jackpot.

Other options which rose substantially included: Arieh, plus 14.2 per cent; Meir Ezra, 14.2; Teta, 28.3; Bonded Warehouses, 16.7; Yahalom, 14.6; Ben Yakar, 28.4; Lumer 25.8; Manrav, 24.4; Hadar, 16.7; Atlas, 19; Feuchtwanger, 21.5; Five J, 16; Ampa, 21.3; Export, 20; and MGN, plus 24.3 per cent.

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
OHH	1680	14	+0.8
Maritime 0.1	720	3192	+44.0
N. American 1	5472	51	+0.9
N. American 5	3692	172	+4.7
N. Am. op 1	2601	177	+6.8
Danot 1	600	326	+54.0
Danot 2	141	3000	+2120.0
Danot 4	340	1013	+298.0
First Int'l 5	472	8997	+1905.0

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB	108100	n.c.	n.c.
IDB r	4790	559	+11.7
IDB A	5150	6	+0.1
IDB op 11	3700	143	+3.9
Union 0.1	6270	221	+3.5
Discount B r	3520	2	+0.1
Discount A r	6160	60	+1.0
Discount op 2	5100	23	+0.5
Discount B op	16600	n.c.	n.c.
Mizrahi r	1975	10479	+530.0
Mizrahi b	1975	193	+9.8
Mizrahi op 11	3690	74	+2.0
Mizrahi op 12	1600	412	+25.8
Mizrahi op 13	1600	n.c.	n.c.
Mizrahi op 9	900	195	+21.7
Hapoalim p	4260	n.c.	n.c.
Hapoalim r	3260	7214	+221.0
Hapoalim b	3260	10	+0.3
Hapoalim op 8	12500	709	+5.6
General A	8429	64	+0.8
General op 8	20000	n.c.	n.c.
General op 9	8200	34	+0.4
General op 5	6590	3	+0.0
General op 7	400	74	+18.5
Leumi 0.1	2070	7977	+385.0
Leumi op 9	2830	39	+1.4
Leumi op 11	781	16	+2.1
Finance Trade 1	no trading	n.c.	n.c.
Finance Trade op 2550	2	100	+3.8

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Mortgage Banks			
Ademint 1	1309	11	+0.8
Gen. Mortgage	1448	84	+5.8
Gen. Mortgage	1386	33	+2.4
Carmel r	1270	42	+3.3
Carmel op	812	33	+4.1
Carmel deb	176	147	+83.5
Binyan	616	146	+23.7
Dev. Mortgage r	664	1207	+183.0
Dev. Mortgage op	737	363	+49.1
Mishkan r	3570	2	+0.1
Mishkan op	3350	34	+1.0
Independence	1587	22	+1.4
Tefahot p r	1530	80	+5.2
Tefahot deb. 1	600	45	+7.5
Tefahot deb. 2	240	629	+262.1
Jaysour	385	36	+9.4
Jaysour op	360	30	+8.3
Jaysour op	218	321	+147.2
Mezra r	315	888	+281.6

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Financial Institutions			
Shilton r	170	1584	+932.0
Shilton op B	1108	1	+0.1
Agriculture A	18000	5	+0.0
Agriculture C	11900	n.c.	n.c.
Leumi Ind r	912	154	+16.9
Leumi Ind op	925	50	+5.4
Dev. Mortgage r	8550	13	+0.2
Dev. Mortgage op	30500	1	+0.0
Dev. Mortgage c	19010	1	+0.0
Dev. Mortgage d	16500	3	+0.0
Dev. Mortgage e	5303	n.c.	n.c.
Contractors	161	315	+195.7
Tourism	12714	n.c.	n.c.
Clal Lease 0.1	450	306	+68.0
Clal Lease 0.2	309	209	+67.6
Clal Lease deb	816	191	+23.3

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Insurance			
Aryeh r	510	691	+135.3
Aryeh sub def	2950	n.c.	n.c.
Amrat 0.1	609	340	+55.8
Amrat 0.5 b	160	15	+9.4
Reinsur 0.5 r	320	586	+183.1
Reinsur 0.5 r	330	79	+23.9
Hadar 5	107	395	+368.2
Hassneh r	400	274	+68.5
Phoenix 0.1 r	1148	38	+3.3
Phoenix 0.5 r	387	41	+10.6
Hamishmar 1	365	123	+33.7
Hamishmar 5	551	31	+5.6
Yardenia 0.1 r	301	72	+23.9
Yardenia 0.5 r	171	474	+277.2
Yardenia op 2	75	292	+389.3
Memorah 1	1230	16	+1.3
Memorah 5	320	136	+42.2
Sahar r	1440	44	+3.1
Securitas r	290	807	+278.3
Zur r	800	30	+3.8
Zion Hold. 1	370	49	+13.3
Zion Hold. 5	181	144	+79.5

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Trade & Services			
Meir Ezra	323	627	+194.1
Meir Ezra op	217	146	+67.3
Teta 1	195	299	+153.3
Teta 5	109	329	+301.8
Teta op	50	1149	+2298.0
Clal Trade op	341	734	+215.3
Crystal 1	189	148	+78.3
Rapac 0.1	1250	7	+0.6
Rapac 0.5	242	268	+110.7
Supersol 2	1850	164	+8.8
Supersol B 10	435	599	+137.9
Supersol op C	460	264	+57.4
Delek r	2199	116	+5.3
Harel 1	617	67	+10.9
Harel 5	274	193	+70.1
Lighterage 0.1	300	265	+88.3
Lighterage 0.5	325	350	+8.3
Gold Store 0.1	9679	2	+0.0
Gold Store 1	5260	11	+0.2
Israel Elec. r	381	142	+37.3
Bond Ware 0.5	161	194	+20.5
Bond Ware op	328	155	+47.3
Consort Hold 1	412	370	+89.8
Consort 0.5	243	411	+169.1
Consort op A	213	185	+86.8
Kopel 1	300	197	+65.7
Kopel op	165	40	+24.2

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Hotels, Tourism			
Galei Zohar 1	500	41	+8.2
Galei Zohar 5	315	84	+26.7
Dan Hotels 1	595	195	+32.8
Dan Hotels 5	335	35	+10.4
Corral Beach	280	177	+63.2
Yarden Hotel	266	n.c.	n.c.
Yarden Hotel op	140	265	+190.0
Yahalom	177	802	+453.1
Yahalom op	110	670	+610.0

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Computers			
Dana	280	73	+26.1
Hilon 1	460	153	+33.3
Hilon 5	810	3	+0.4
Ya'an	1710	50.1	+2.9
Ya'an op	1200	160	+13.3
Clal Comp.	480	30	+6.3
Clal Comp. op	302	30	+10.0
M.L.L. 1	1200	39	+3.3
M.L.L. 5	470	47	+10.0
M.L.L. op	279	21	+7.5
Mashov	417	50.1	+12.0
Nakur 1	343	143	+41.7
Nakur 5	158	42	+26.6
Nakur op	149	56	+37.6
Team 1	1060	8	+0.8
Team op	810	30	+3.7

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Real Estate, Building			
Dren	252	1049	+416.3
Azorn opD	223	2402	+1077.1
Azorn opD	389	150	+38.6
Azorn opE	165	682	+413.3
Elon	64	479	+748.4
Elon op	30	115	+383.3
Ammonit	153	n.c.	n.c.
Ammonit op	80	245	+306.3
Africa Isr. 0.1	1606	189	+11.8
Africa Isr. 1.0	1370	399	+29.1
Azram	158	1	+0.6
Azram op	133	250	+187.3
Azram op 1	439	92	+21.0
Azram op 5	304	49	+16.1
Ben Yakar 1	153	50.1	+32.7
Ben Yakar 5	181	42	+23.2
Baranowitz 1	135	512	+379.3
Baranowitz 5	84	542	+645.2
Baranowitz op	66	456	+690.9
Dankner	155	18	+11.6
Drucker 1	160	325	+203.1
Drucker 5	107	147	+137.4
Drucker op	80	508	+635.0

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Metals and Metal Products			
Octagon	250	20	+8.0
Octagon op	211	n.c.	n.c.
Octagon 0.1 r	2165	118	+5.5
Octagon 0.5 r	1288	70	+5.4
Octagon op	83	178	+213.3
Cables r	995	50.1	+5.0
Cables b	904	18	+2.0
Hatchof 1	351	19	+5.4
Hatchof 5	165	155	+93.9
Is. Can Corp 1	298	36	+12.1
Is. Can Corp 5	303	681	+224.8
Sdom Metals 1	231	90	+38.9
Sdom Metals op	95	114	+12.0
Zion Cables 1	2020	108	+5.4
Zion Cables 5	184	184	+100.0
Zion Cables op	184	175	+9.5
Kadman 1	180	200	+11.1
Kadman 5	108	285	+264.8
Kadman op	147	66	+44.9
Neuchushtan 0.1	396	243	+61.4
Neuchushtan 0.5	297	563	+189.6
Neuchushtan op	59	1035	+1735.0
Arad	189	783	+414.3
Arad op	150	467	+311.3
King 1	470	60	+12.8
King 5	285	56	+19.7
King op	190	52	+27.4
Sheladot 1	401	24	+6.0
Sheladot 5	218	39	+17.9
Sheladot op	163	50	+30.7
Lachish 1	426	115	+27.1
Lachish op	626	13	+2.1

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Electrical Machinery, Electronics, Optics			
Elbit 3 r	55139	9	+0.0
Elbit op	26900	n.c.	n.c.
Eco 0.1	451	200	+44.3
Eco 0.25 r	254	1283	+504.7
Eco 0.5 b	241	58	+24.1
Eco 0.5 r	1365	30	+2.2
Eco 0.5 r	516	280	+54.3
Electra op 4	346	187	+54.1
Eltron	no trading	n.c.	n.c.
Art	1991	11	+0.6
Art op	1370	12	+0.9
Clal Electronics	1996	119	+6.0
Electron 0.1	2170	105	+4.8
Spectronix 5	1710	136	+7.9
Spectronia op	2625	124	+4.7
Feuchtwanger 1	200	73	+36.5
Feuchtwanger 5	163	177	+108.6
Feuchtwanger op	73	24	+33.3
Cyclone 1	440	n.c.	n.c.
Cyclone 5	202	269	+133.2
Cyclone op	157	30.1	+19.2
Katz Adler 1	293	68	+23.2
Katz Adler 5	160	184	+115.0
T.A.T. 1	310	582	+187.8
T.A.T. op	460	282	+61.3
Tedex	619	50.1	+8.1
Tedex op	505	70	+13.9

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Building Materials			
Alkal 1	195	566	+289.8
Alkal op	345	160	+46.4
Akerstein 1	379	28	+7.4
Akerstein 5	321	80	+25.2
Tadit 1	279	5	+1.8
Tadit 5	279	5	+1.8
Barton 1	154	46	+30.0
Barton 5	75	160	+213.3
Hamashul 1	152	20	+13.2
Hamashul 5	87	200	+230.0
Hamashul op	130	n.c.	n.c.
Tomashul 1	556	14	+2.5
Tomashul 5	301	17	+5.7
M.L.T. 1	282	140	+49.7
M.L.T. 5	140	436	+311.4
Medol Ind	147	362	+246.3
Wolfman 1	700	4	+0.6
Wolfman 5	531	5	+0.9

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Art Rath
Editor and
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Prisoner in Ba'abda

THE COLLAPSE of the Jemayel regime in Lebanon is no longer a possibility, or even a likelihood. It is now a fact. With the Lebanese Army's Fourth Division literally melted away, the rebellious Druse and Shi'ite fighters were able to cut off Beirut from the south, and to reduce Mr. Jemayel's fiefdom to little more than the Ba'abda Palace.

Salvation can now come to the Lebanese president only from Damascus. Syria's price is well known. It is, first and foremost, the abrogation of last year's agreement with Israel. Although he has been officially advised by both the U.S. and Israel not to do so, Mr. Jemayel is reported ready to offer that concession, which would of course make him into Syria's pawn.

This in itself would not secure Mr. Jemayel's position. He would at least have to cede to the Shi'ites and the Druse a far larger share in the national cake than they enjoy at present. But even so he may have trouble holding on to the presidency. Druse leader Walid Jumblatt, exulting over his militia's victories in the battlefield, has ruled out any reconciliation with Mr. Jemayel, even if he were to scrap the agreement with Israel.

President Hafez Assad may have to cool his Druse partner's ardour a bit before he can make any promises to Mr. Jemayel. But the agreement, which has never been ratified by the Lebanese parliament, is to all intents already as good as dead. Mr. Jumblatt was right when he called it stillborn. Its unilateral renunciation by the Lebanese side would only make official that which has been obvious for some time.

For one thing, the agreement was predicated on the assumption that a strong central Lebanese government, manned largely by the Maronites, would be able to create conditions of security in the south that would warrant Israel's withdrawal. But that central government has been wobbling for some time and is now in ruins as a result of the Druse and Shi'ite challenge, and it cannot now undertake any obligations towards this country.

Besides, under the agreement, Israeli withdrawal was linked to a pullout of Syrian forces from Lebanon. It was believed that the Syrians would be cooperative because the IDF, while in Lebanon, was 25km. from Damascus. But the Syrians turned out to be unimpressed.

Thus the May 17 agreement was, from the start, essentially irrelevant to Israel's aspirations. Its abrogation would represent not so much a "dreadful precedent" as a warning against making political deals with Arab regimes whose hold on power is less than tenuous. And while it is plain enough that an alternative to the agreement must now be devised, that would have been the case even if the agreement were not to be formally scrapped.

The alternative will admittedly not be easy to contrive. The former "red lines" with Syria were wiped out by Israel during the war, and may be impossible to restore. PLO terrorists who have fought alongside the militias in the north are reported to be moving south. Meanwhile, the southern Shi'ites, buoyed by the military successes of their brethren in the north, will be harder to recruit as Israel's allies in the struggle against terrorism.

The temptation will thus be great to substitute for the agreement an indefinite stay by the IDF in southern Lebanon. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has in fact pledged as much. Mr. Shamir, it is true, has also indicated a change of mind about a role for a UN peacekeeping force in the area. But it is a safe bet that one condition for the stationing of such a beefed up UN force would be Israel's withdrawal.

Israel has a duty to itself, and to its friends across the border, to maintain the peace and to keep the terrorists out. But this purpose is best achieved by reliance on this country's traditional deterrent and punitive capacity, not by building up fresh foes in newly occupied territory.

A stable rate of instability?

By MEIR MERHAV

THE NEWS that January's inflation rate had hit the record level of nearly 15 per cent, announced by the Central Bureau of Statistics on Wednesday, was a shrill alarm that should have rudely shaken the Treasury, the coalition politicians, and a good part of the public as well, out of their rosy dreams of recent weeks.

If the January bell did not ring loudly enough, then what the CBS had to say on February should have made the ominous ticking of the clock audible: An additional price rise of six to seven per cent in February is already in the bag — and that means that for the whole of the current month inflation will not be less than 12 per cent. There is no reason on earth to assume that March will be much different, and in April, the month of Pessah, when prices always rise more steeply, it will not be surprising if prices jump by as much as 20 per cent.

The Treasury people, competent and experienced economists, must know that at least as well as any outside commentator. Their fondest hopes right now seem to be that inflation will "settle down" to a new stable rate of, say, 10 to 12 per cent a month, which means close to 400 per cent a year.

It is truly a sign of the Orwellian 1984 that such a rate of inflation should be talked of as a "settling down" to a "stable" core rate which — it is hoped — will remain under control.

Instability at a stable rate, an inflation that does not become runaway? We seem to have had it throughout the last decade. First, there was a "stable" inflation rate of some 35 per cent, to which the economy settled down after the initial shock of 1973/74. That stage lasted until 1977, by the end of which the late Simha Ehrlich's liberalization policy pushed the inflation rate to a new level — twice as high as the one before it. In 1980 and 1981, the new "core" rate of inflation had approximately doubled again, to some 130 per cent a year.

So far, each new finance minister of the two Likud governments seems to have doubled the inflation rate that prevailed under his predecessor. Yigal Cohen-Orad — and we ourselves — will be lucky if this time, too, we get away with a mere doubling of the inflation rate. Because at some point, at some time, it must run out of control.

THE DECISIVE factor in preventing this happening is the government's ability to go on making wage earners accept the taxes it imposes. Experience has taught Israelis how to cope with high inflation. A comprehensive system of indexation has, for most practical purposes, so far succeeded in nullifying inflation as far as its effects on income and wealth and their distribution are concerned.

That, however, cannot work forever. Instability cannot be maintained at a stable rate, regardless of how high the rate itself is. While inflation was running at 30, 80 or 130 per cent a year, wage agreements, including cost-of-living allowances, could still stand up, because the tax on real wages imposed by the lag between price increases and the payment of the (partial) compensa-

tion for it was not intolerably high: it was periodically further compensated by increases in basic wages. But when the purchasing power of wages is eroded by half a per cent or more per day, no wage agreement stipulating compensation at intervals of months can continue to hold. A process of acceleration is set into motion, in which inflation begins to gallop ever faster.

We may be witnessing the first stage of this process right now. In the wage negotiations that have begun (how can one strike any sort of wage bargain for two years in such conditions?) the Histadrut is already demanding a monthly cost-of-living allowance. The demand is justified, because without it there is no way in which real wages could be stabilized at their present, seriously reduced level — as Cohen-Orad declared should be done last Wednesday.

At the same time, it should be clear that each round of compensation for past inflation pushes the rate up again. It does precisely what it is meant to do — it nullifies the effects of inflation. The more frequent the compensation, the faster the process. And the faster the process, the more frequent will compensation have to become. From a monthly cost-of-living allowance, we may soon shift to a bi-weekly, and from there to a weekly or even daily adjustment — a classic case of hyperinflation, to the point where the national currency, long ago abolished in practice as a unit of account and as a store of value, also ceases to be a means of payment.

WE ARE WITNESSING the other side of the process right now. A visit to any shop; an inquiry after prices in any factory; a look at any commercial contract will show that as a unit of account, for the determination of prices, the national currency has ceased to exist. As a store of value it was abolished long ago, through the indexation of all types of savings.

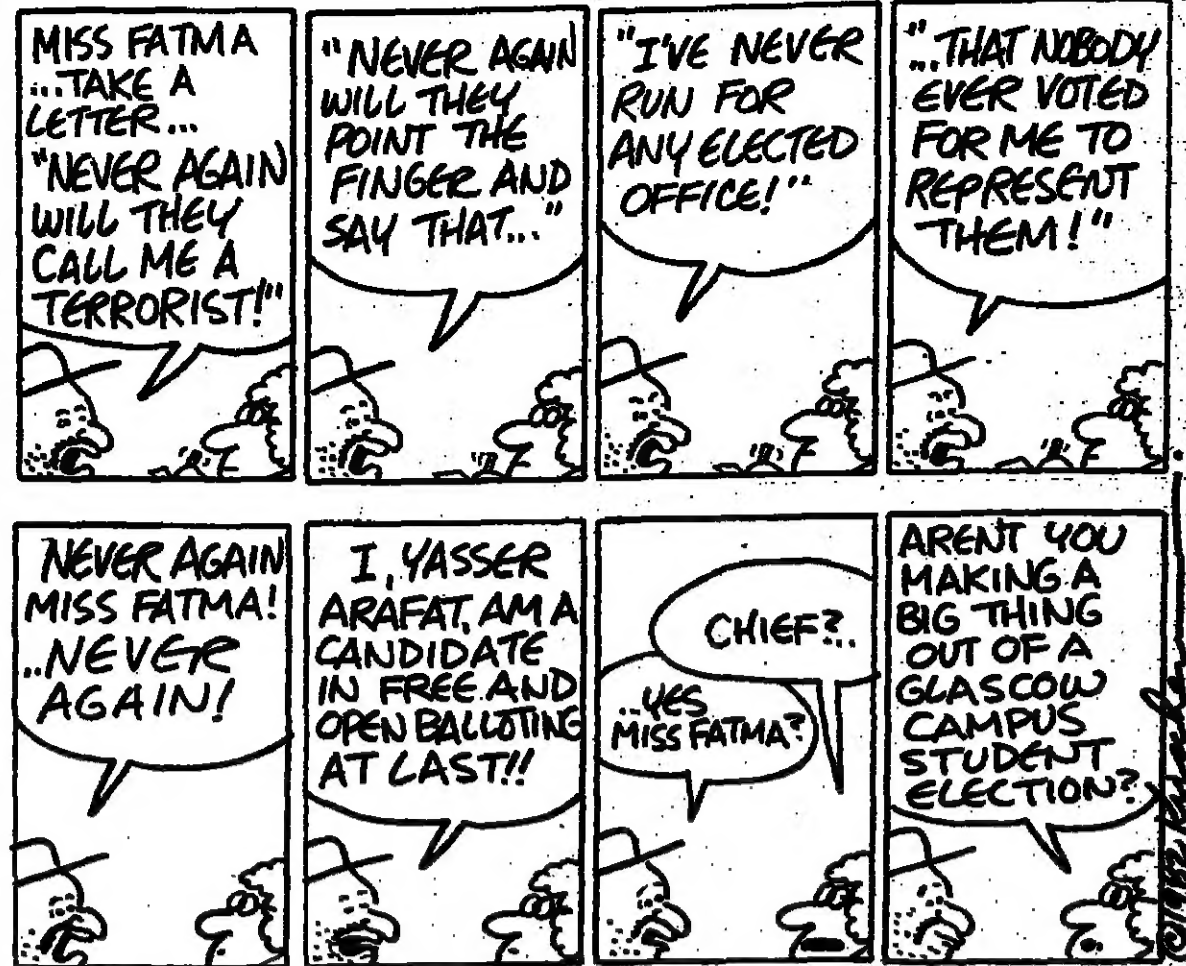
There is a universal conspiracy to dollarize the economy. Producers, suppliers of services and shopkeepers all fix their prices according to the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar, on a virtually daily basis.

This does not merely mean that they are recalculating their prices on the basis of the exchange rate, taking into account that with the devaluation of the currency and rises in domestic prices their prime costs have gone up. It also means that they are linking their gross profit margins to the dollar. They are not absorbing any part of the inflation.

Even if the economy were truly competitive — some sectors are, and there, indeed, prices rise more slowly — such a price policy could only be maintained as long as demand was high enough to permit it. In an economy that is not competitive, in which producers, providers of services, and even merchants enjoy various degrees of monopoly power, prices might be jacked up by the full extent of inflation and devaluation, but output would be contracted and unemployment would rise.

We seem to be facing a mixture of

The Friday Dry Bones



both. The economy is far from competitive, and effective demand does not seem to have fallen off sufficiently to keep prices from rising in step with devaluation. Government spending has not, all the declarations to the contrary notwithstanding, shrunk significantly. The Treasury goes on printing cash, providing the private sector with a high degree of liquidity.

The credit restrictions imposed to reduce liquidity also seem to be having a far smaller effect than the Treasury and the Bank of Israel hoped for. The selling wave of government bonds a few weeks ago, which forced the central bank to print some IS10b, to prop up the price of debentures dumped by firms who wanted cash and found that difficult-to-get bank overdrafts were more expensive than getting rid of their financial assets, demonstrated the point.

AN ADDITIONAL factor making for high liquidity may be a drastic fall in savings. The publication of the relevant data will show to what extent this has occurred. It would not be surprising if, after the stock market crash of October-November, and the uncertainty generated by Cohen-Orad's economic measures, the public held back from tying up its savings in long-term programmes. People seem to be sitting on the fence, keeping their money in liquid form, and waiting for more stable conditions.

Part of the public's current savings are no doubt also being spent on consumption, which can no longer be maintained at its customary standards out of eroded current earnings. Since Israelis are, contrary to what is generally believed, a rather frugal people, with one of the highest savings rates in the world, a diversion of savings to current consumption can go a long way towards propping up aggregate demand.

The dollarization conspiracy in the private sector which, combined

with continued high government spending, a not-much-reduced private consumption demand and a monopolistic structure of most of the economy, is preventing a slowdown of inflation, has its theoretical counterpart in the dollarization programme of the former finance minister, Yoram Aridor, and his advisor, Prof. Yakir Plesner.

That plan is far from dead. First mooted some two years ago, by Yacov Meridor, the minister who holds the economic coordination portfolio, it became official theory under Aridor. It continues to have adherents, including the former deputy governor of the Bank of Israel, Prof. Zvi Sussmann.

To the extent that this programme means more than that the government should simply limp along behind what the private sector is already doing, and make the de facto abolition of the national currency official, it requires policy measures — primarily the reduction of excess government spending — that, if the government had the strength to implement, would make dollarization superfluous.

In his television interview on Wednesday, following the publication of the January price index, Cohen-Orad had a stereotype answer to all questions: his policy is right, and all that is needed is more of the same. But so far, there have been no signs that he is even able to carry out the full measure of "the same," let alone more of it.

The present writer, together with others, has repeatedly stressed that the only thing that will enable a real change of economic policy is the reordering of the entire set of national priorities. The economy cannot be saved by economic policy alone.

But even leaving this crucial aspect aside, this much may be said: even within the framework of existing political priorities, a different policy is conceivable from one in which devaluation and domestic inflation run the race between the tortoise and the hare.

IF ARIDOR wanted — with only limited success — to combat inflation at the expense of the balance of payments, his successor is following the opposite course. Trying to improve the balance of payments partly in an effort to convince the Americans that we are punishing ourselves enough to be worthy of the aid we get, Cohen-Orad is using inflation as a tax on real wages and is indifferent to its rate.

The trouble with this approach is that an annual hyperinflation of 400, 500 and more per cent will destroy our social fabric. The production and labour relations needed to improve the balance of payments on a lasting basis is in danger of breaking down.

There are alternatives. The logic of Cohen-Orad's measures — the partial reinstatement of currency control, and other measures of deliberalization — only needs to be carried a step further to obtain an improvement in the trade balance without unleashing a galloping inflation.

Export subsidies were already being added administrative, and fiscal import restrictions; price controls; a revival of the tax administration; a moratorium on certain types of domestic government debt and a capital tax. After all these, add a wage pact — and inflation can be kept from running away while the balance of payments is improved.

Distasteful for the purists of economic liberalism? No doubt. Administratively messy? No doubt. Economically not very efficient? Probably. Embarrassing to go back to the most interventionist periods of the early Labour governments? Most certainly. Likely to make the coalition crack even more than it already does? Yes, if that's possible. But is a total breakdown, as a result of a runaway inflation the one and only alternative — barring early elections and the return to power of a government strong enough to pursue a house in order?

The writer is economic editor of The Jerusalem Post.

READERS' LETTERS

HELPLESSNESS DURING TRAGEDY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — Through your columns, I should like to thank the manager and staff of the Moriah Hotel at the Dead Sea for their infinite patience, helpfulness and consideration to their guests during the tragic fire that occurred. At all times, they were available to help guests with their many and varied problems that arose from loss of possessions.

The Tel Harim Hotel to which we were taken is also to be commended for making the "refugees" welcome and for supplying excellent four-course lunches and dinners at such short notice.

Israel's hotel industry has nothing to fear if the morale and efficiency evident during the tragedy manifests itself also at other times.

RUTH G. SLESS
Haifa (Brighton).

The Jerusalem Post invites readers to send in letters to the Editor who will be pleased to consider them for publication. We wish to point out that letters which do not carry the full name and address of the writer cannot be considered. A writer's identity will be withheld from publication only if this is warranted by special circumstances.

Please be brief. The Editor retains the right to shorten letters. Only a selection can be published and none individually acknowledged. Letters not accepted for publication will only be returned if this is specially requested and a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

RECIPES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — Of all the recipes printed in Today, the easiest and tastiest always seem to be those of Jeanne Weisgal. Bravo to her for putting them together in such a lucid fashion and to The Jerusalem Post for making them available to such a wide readership.

I am looking forward, hungrily, to more of the same.

BRUNO WASSERTHEIL
Jerusalem.

SIDE-EFFECTS OF DRUGS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — The amendment to the traffic ordinance now in the Knesset Economic Committee (February 7) proposes that doctors and psychologists report to the authorities those individuals with driver's licences who suffer from emotional disturbance or physiological balance impairment. Hopefully this will help to curb the present massacre on our roads.

I wonder if note has been taken of the wide spectrum of medication prescribed to so many drivers which may negatively affect their driving ability. The bulk of the population receives medication directly from the sick funds without the inclusion of the manufacturer's indications and warnings and thus cannot know what effect these drugs may have on reflexes or on the ability to remain awake at the wheel. A proper warning accompanying such drugs might at least raise the driver's awareness of their inherent dangers.

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